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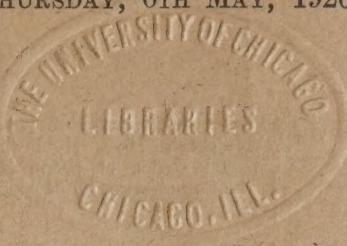
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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

Parliament

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

FIRST SESSION, 1920.

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EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.

FIRST SESSION.

Governor-General.

His Excellency the Right Honorable Sir RONALD CEAUFURD MUNRO FERGUSON, a Member of His Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Commonwealth of Australia.

Australian National Government.

(From 10th January, 1918.)

Prime Minister and Attorney-General	..	The Right Honorable William Morris Hughes, P.C., K.C.
Minister for the Navy .....	..	The Right Honorable Sir Joseph Cook, P.C., G.C.M.G.
Treasurer .....	..	The Right Honorable Lord Forrest, P.C., G.C.M.G. <i>Succeeded by</i>
Minister for Defence .....	..	The Right Honorable William Alexander Watt, P.C. (27th March, 1918).
Minister for Repatriation .....	..	The Honorable George Foster Pearce.
Minister for Works and Railways .....	..	The Honorable Edward Davis Millen.
Minister for Home and Territories .....	..	The Right Honorable William Alexander Watt, P.C. <i>Succeeded by</i>
Minister for Trade and Customs .....	..	The Honorable Littleton Ernest Groom (27th March, 1918). The Honorable Patrick McMahon Glynn, K.C. $\dagger\ddagger$ <i>Succeeded by</i>
Postmaster-General .....	..	The Honorable Alexander Poynton (4th February, 1920). The Honorable Jens August Jensen. <i>Succeeded by</i>
Vice-President of the Executive Council .....	..	The Right Honorable William Alexander Watt, P.C. (13th December, 1918). <i>Succeeded by</i>
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable Walter Massy Greene (17th January, 1919). The Honorable William Webster. $\dagger\ddagger$ <i>Succeeded by</i>
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable George Henry Wise (4th February, 1920).
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable Littleton Ernest Groom. <i>Succeeded by</i>
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable Edward John Russell (27th March, 1918). The Honorable Edward John Russell. Appointed Vice-President of the Executive Council, 27th March, 1918.
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable Alexander Poynton. Appointed Minister for Home and Territories, 4th February, 1920.
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable George Henry Wise. Appointed Postmaster-General, 4th February, 1920.
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable Walter Massy Greene. Appointed Minister for Trade and Customs, 17th January, 1919.*
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable Richard Beaumont Orchard**
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable Sir Granville de Laune Ryrie, K.C.M.G., G.B., V.D. $\dagger\ddagger$
Honorary Minister .....	..	The Honorable William Henry Laird Smith.††

* Appointed 26th March, 1918.—† Removed from office, 13th December, 1918.—** Resigned office 31st January, 1919.—†† Appointed 4th February, 1920.—††† Resigned 3rd February, 1920.

Senators.

President—Senator the Honorable Thomas Givens.

Chairman of Committees—Senator John Wallace Shannon.

Bakhar, Thomas Jerome Kingston (T.)	Lynch, Hon. Patrick Joseph (W.A.)
Barker, Stephen (V.)	Maughan, William John Ryott (Q.)
Barnes, John (V.)	¹ McDougall, Allan (N.S.W.)
Bolton, William Kinsey (V.)	Millen, Hon. Edward Davis (N.S.W.)
Buzacott, Richard (W.A.)	†Muleahy, Hon. Edward (T.)
Crawford, Thomas William (Q.)	Newlandham, Edward (W.A.)
De Largie, Hon. Hugh (W.A.)	¹ Newland, John (S.A.)
Earle, Hon. John (T.)	O'Keefe, Hon. David John (T.)
Fairbairn, George (V.)	O'Loughlin, Hon. James Vincent, V.D. (S.A.)
Ferricks, Myles Aloysius (Q.)	Pearce, Hon. George Foster (W.A.)
Foll, Hattil Spencer (Q.)	Plain, William (V.)
Gardiner, Hon. Albert (N.S.W.)	Pratten, Herbert Edward (N.S.W.)
Givens, Hon. Thomas (Q.)	Reid, Matthew (Q.)
Grant, John (N.S.W.)	Rowell, James, C.B. (S.A.)
Guthrie, Robert Storrie (S.A.)	Russell, Hon. Edward John (V.)
Guy, James (T.)	Senior, William (S.A.)
Henderson, George (W.A.)	Shannon, John Wallace (S.A.)
Keating, Hon. John Henry (T.)	Thomas, Hon. Josiah (N.S.W.)
*Long, Hon. James Joseph (T.)	

1. Appointed Temporary Chairman of Committees, 26th February, 1920.—*Resignation reported, 20th December, 1918.

† Appointed by State Parliament, 15th January, 1919—Sworn 26th June, 1919, and elected to fill vacancy, 13th December, 1919.

generally the subject of profiteering, though he may incidentally refer to it if he can connect his remarks with the Judiciary Bill, consideration of which it is proposed to postpone till to-morrow.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—I intend to connect my remarks with the Judiciary Bill, Mr. Speaker, but it would have been impossible to do so without making the quotation. We were looking for this Judiciary Bill, so that we would be able to confer certain necessary powers on the High Court.

Mr. TUDOR.—Sir John Quick made the same statement during the last election.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—That is so. I listened with interest to the speech made by the honorable member for Illawarra (Mr. Hector Lamond), who to-night was apologizing for the profiteers. I regret that he is not present now, so that I might reply to his remarks. There was a time when he held other views.

Mr. POYNTON.—He never did anything of the kind.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—I am putting my own interpretation on his speech. The honorable member for Illawarra, like the Minister, was at one time on this side of the House. We were led to believe that they parted with the Labour party over the conscription issue; but it appears now that they have gone over to the other side on other questions as well, for we now find the honorable member for Illawarra apologizing for a number of things that were once anathema to him. He and the Minister for Home and Territories (Mr. Poynton) have, it appears, run away from their life-long principles. However, I will leave that aspect of the matter now, for the simple reason that the honorable member for Illawarra is not in the House. As regards the Judiciary Bill, I have every sympathy with what is proposed to be done; but there should be scope to deal with many other matters, including one in which I have a particular interest, to see if something can be done for many struggling settlers in my electorate. I desire to see jurisdiction given to the High Court in regard to the extension of the moratorium.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Order! I cannot permit the honorable member to proceed. He will not be in order in following up

the line of argument upon which he is now entering.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—I submit to your ruling, sir; but I am only endeavouring to show reasons why the Judiciary Bill should be brought forward for consideration; and if I may do so by pointing out how, through that measure, profiteering may be dealt with, surely I would be in order in pointing out, also, that the Judiciary Bill is equally necessary to deal with another important subject.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Order! I have allowed a great deal more latitude than I should have done, and must accept my share of blame for not having prevented the development of this discussion at an earlier stage. I ask the honorable member now to concentrate his attention upon the question before the Chair, and so avoid dragging in extraneous and irrelevant subjects.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—I must confess that I was hoping that, by means of the Judiciary Bill, something would be done to give relief to unfortunate people who are carrying heavy mortgages to-day in drought-stricken areas.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Order! The honorable member is now disregarding my ruling, and is proceeding to discuss the Judiciary Bill, which is not before the House.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—I submit to your ruling, sir; but with all deference repeat that if, in connexion with the Judiciary Bill, I may touch upon its relevance to the subject of profiteering I should be permitted to mention also its relation to the matter of the extension of the moratorium. I marvel every day at the fact that many unfortunate people are able to live at all. They are only existing. The Government say they have no power to deal with profiteering. The honorable member for West Sydney has offered to draft a Bill. Why do not the Government accept that offer? If the honorable member should fail, the Government ought to be only too glad to have given him the opportunity to demonstrate his failure. The honorable member for West Sydney not only undertakes to draft the Bill, but will guarantee its validity before the Courts. That is both a fair offer and a fair challenge. The honorable member for Illawarra remarked to-night that honorable members on this side had prevented the

taking of an affirmative vote in connexion with the last referendum, and that if a "Yes" vote had been recorded the Government would have done certain things by this time to stop profiteering. At a meeting of representatives of the Housewives Association, about a fortnight ago, the Prime Minister is reported to have used these words in answer to the question, "What would have been done if the referendum was carried?" "By this time," said Mr. Hughes, "we would have had a Commission appointed in order to make these inquiries." It would appear that all the Government proposed was to add another to the list of Commissions which are merely tampering with the subject to-day. There is a body known as the Fair Prices Commission. Any one, upon reading the evidence given before it, must be convinced that it is only tinkering with profiteering and the cost of living. There is evidence every day to prove that profiteering is rampant; yet the Prime Minister said that what the Government would have done, had the people voted "Yes," would have been to appoint a Commission.

Mr. WISE.—The Prime Minister never said such a thing, and the honorable member knows it.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—I am going upon the report of the Prime Minister's remarks. If the only outcome of the referendum was to have been the appointment of another Commission, nobody should be sorry now that the "No" vote succeeded. This House is to meet on Tuesday next. Why this extra day? It is a mere blind to make the people think we have something important in hand. Why should this House proceed with such a farce? Why should honorable members be called upon to meet a day earlier, if the Government have no more important business to place before them than the consideration of Estimates, the money involved in which has been practically all spent? The opportunity to expose the Government as the friends of the profiteers has been too long allowed to pass. Of course, the Government will not deal with profiteering, for the reason that they would not have been back on the Treasury benches to-day but for the help of the campaign funds provided by the profiteers. I trust even now that the

Government will recognise the seriousness of the position and attempt to provide relief for the struggling people, who look to this Parliament to conserve their interests against these profiteering enemies of the people.

Mr. CONSIDINE (Barrier) [11.8].—I desire to add my protest to the action of the Government in "side-tracking" the Judiciary Bill. Nobody on this side of the House, of course, believes that the Government intend to do anything to interfere with the profits of those people who made it possible for the Government to get back to the Treasury benches. I ask leave to continue my remarks upon another occasion.

Leave granted; debate adjourned.

House adjourned at 11.10 p.m.

Senate.

Friday, 30 April, 1920.

The PRESIDENT (Senator the Hon. T. Givens) took the chair at 11 a.m., and read prayers.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION: ALLEGED MILITARY CLIQUE.

Senator GARDINER.—I ask the Minister for Defence, in view of his reply to a statement quoted by me in asking a question in the Senate, wherein he is reported in *Hansard* to have said, "This was one of those loose and inaccurate statements," is it a fact that General Bridges, prior to the outbreak of war, was in Brisbane, on his way to Port Darwin?

Senator MILLEN.—At his own request.

Senator GARDINER.—That Mr. Kelly, a Minister in the Cook Government, wired to Senator Millen, then Minister for Defence, to have General Bridges recalled to Melbourne, and that General Bridges was recalled? If the facts as stated are correct, will the Minister for Defence say what part of Mr. Kelly's speech can fairly be described as loose or inaccurate?

Senator PEARCE.—That part which referred to a military clique.

Senator MILLEN.—And also that part which suggested that General Bridges had been sent out of the way.

NORTHERN TERRITORY COMMISSION.

PUBLICATION OF REPORT.

Senator FOLL.—I ask the Leader of the Senate if he has seen in this morning's newspaper a paragraph giving information in connexion with the report of Judge Ewing as a Royal Commission appointed to inquire into affairs in the Northern Territory. I should like to know whether any information concerning the report has been made available to the press by the Government, and, if so, why that information was not given to Parliament before it was given to the press.

Senator MILLEN.—I am in the same position as Senator Foll. I am disposed to ask the same question myself, because, so far as I know, the report of the Royal Commission referred to has not yet reached Ministers.

TAXATION OF PRIZES IN TATTERSALL'S SWEEPS.

Senator GARDINER asked the Minister representing the Treasurer, upon notice—

1. Where prizes were won in Tattersall's sweeps for the year 1916, is the Income Tax Commissioner collecting the amount due to the Government?

2. Are individuals who sent for the tickets for a syndicate and drew winning numbers being held responsible for the whole amount due?

3. Has the Commissioner power to appoint an employer as agent to compel him to collect the amount due from his employee by deducting same from his wages?

Senator MILLEN.—The answers are—

1. Yes.

2. Yes; unless they can prove to the Commissioner that the prize money has been distributed, in which case the tax is collected from the individual members of the syndicate.

3. Yes. This power is given by section 50A of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1918.

PASSPORTS BILL.

Bill (on motion by Senator RUSSELL) read a third time.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE CANTEENS FUNDS BILL.

Bill returned from House of Representatives with an amendment.

Motion (by Senator PEARCE) agreed to—

That the message be considered in Committee forthwith.

In Committee:

House of Representatives' Amendment.—After clause 6 insert the following new clause:—

6A. (1) For the purposes of this Act there shall be for each State an Advisory Committee of not less than three members, one of whom shall be a woman.

(2) Each Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the trustees.

(3) The trustees shall nominate one member of each Advisory Committee, and the member so nominated shall be the chairman of that Committee.

(4.) An Advisory Committee shall advise the trustees on matters referred to it by the trustees, and shall carry out such duties in relation to the granting of assistance and benefits under this Act as the trustees direct.

Senator PEARCE (Western Australia—Minister for Defence) [11.7].—The new clause inserted by the House of Representatives in this Bill is in accordance with what I told honorable senators on the second reading of the Bill, and subsequently in Committee, was the intention of the trustees of this fund as regards the State machinery to carry out the purposes of the measure. Some honorable senators thought that there should be some specific provision in the Bill to insure that this course would be followed. That did not appear to me to be necessary, because I regarded my statement on the subject as pledging the Government to see that it was given effect. In view of the general expression of opinion in another place, and of honorable senators, the Government have accepted this amendment which makes the obligation to which I pledged the Government a statutory one. The provision made by the amendment for State Advisory Committees to recommend the action to be subsequently taken by the trustees of the Fund will meet the views of honorable senators who expressed themselves as in favour of State representation on the Trust. This proposal will supply the most effective State representation which could be given. The

members of the State Advisory Committees will carry out the actual work of investigation of claims upon the Fund, and the trustees as a central body will co-ordinate their work. The amendment makes provision for the representation of women on the State Advisory Committees, and it is understood that the women representatives will be selected from those who during the war gave a considerable amount of their time to looking after the dependants of soldiers. As it is believed that the appointment of these Committees will supply valuable machinery for giving effect to the purposes of the Bill, I move—

That the amendment be agreed to.

Senator FOLL (Queensland) [11.10].—I should like to know whether the Minister for Defence would consider the insertion of a further clause laying down the basis for the allocation of the Fund. There is nothing in the Bill to show on what basis this money is to be allocated, so far as the States are concerned. I do not know whether I should be in order in submitting an amendment dealing with that matter and providing that the money shall be allocated upon an enlistment basis.

The CHAIRMAN (**Senator Shannon**).—The Bill generally is not before the Committee, but only the amendment made by the House of Representatives.

Senator PEARCE.—The money will be distributed, not on a State basis, but on an individual basis.

Senator SENIOR (South Australia) [11.11].—I should like to know whether an honorable senator would not be in order in moving any further amendment necessitated by the insertion of this new clause by the House of Representatives.

The CHAIRMAN.—Only by amending the amendment of the House of Representatives now before the Committee.

Senator SENIOR.—So far as the Bill is concerned, this is an entirely new proposal, and an amendment contingent upon it to deal with the allocation of these funds to the different States may be regarded as necessary.

The CHAIRMAN.—I point out to the honorable senator that the only matter referred to the Committee by the Senate is the consideration of the amendment made by the House of Representatives. Only

an amendment of it, or relevant to it, can be considered.

Senator SENIOR.—I ask for direction as to whether it is not in the power of the Committee to make suggestions to the House of Representatives contingent upon the amendment made in that House. Honorable members in another place have amended a Bill which was passed by the Senate, and surely we are not now prevented from making further amendments contingent upon that which has been suggested to us.

The CHAIRMAN.—It is not competent for the Committee to deal with any matter not relevant to the amendment made by the House of Representatives.

Senator SENIOR.—As a matter of parliamentary privilege I desire to have the position fairly stated. If an amendment comes to us from another place opening up a new subject, surely any further amendment considered necessary by honorable senators to make the amendment made by the House of Representatives really effective must be in order.

The CHAIRMAN.—Yes, if relevant to the amendment referred to the Committee.

Senator SENIOR.—The only course open to honorable senators would be to reject the House of Representatives' amendment if they had no power to carry contingent amendments which they considered necessary. As an intelligent debating chamber we could not consent merely to accept an amendment made in another place if we believed that it should necessarily be followed by contingent amendments.

Senator PEARCE (Western Australia)—Minister for Defence) [11.13].—The amendment made by the House of Representatives brings within the consideration of the Committee all questions affecting the State Advisory Committees provided for in the amendment. I submit that it would be competent for this Committee to amend the House of Representatives' amendment, or to add to it any matter relevant to the appointment of State Advisory Committees, but the reference to this Committee of the amendment made by the House of Representatives does not bring the whole Bill before us again for review, and it would not be in order now to submit amendments to other portions of the

Bill not relevant to the amendment made by the House of Representatives.

Senator EARLE.—Could not the Senate recommit the Bill?

Senator PEARCE.—No. The Bill has been passed by the Senate and the only question before the Committee is the amendment inserted by the House of Representatives to provide for the appointment of State Advisory Committees. The standing order dealing with the matter provides that—

No amendment shall be proposed to an amendment of the House of Representatives that is not relevant thereto—

not to the Bill but to the amendment—

nor can an amendment be moved to the Bill unless the same be relevant to, or consequent upon, either the acceptance, amendment, or the rejection of a House of Representatives amendment.

The point raised by Senator Foll is irrelevant to the appointment of State Advisory Committees. The allocation of the fund is dealt with in another clause in the Bill.

Senator FOLL (Queensland) [11.15].—When the measure was previously before the Committee no statutory provision had been made for State Advisory Committees, the funds being left to be dealt with by the trustees; but now a new clause has been inserted providing that the money shall be allocated to the different States.

Senator PEARCE.—It does not do that.

Senator FOLL.—Well, that is what I would like it to provide. I move—

That the proposed new clause be amended by adding the following proviso:—"Provided that the canteen funds shall be allocated to the State Boards on the basis of enlistments."

I do not think it necessary for me to explain the amendment, as it speaks for itself. State Advisory Committees have been provided for, and it is only fair to safeguard the interests of beneficiaries living in such distant States as Western Australia, South Australia, and Queensland. This is a means of providing that the money shall be allotted to all the States on an equitable basis, and I trust that the Committee will accept my amendment.

Senator PEARCE (Western Australia—Minister for Defence) [11.20].—I feel sure the Committee will not be prepared to accept the amendment.

Senator GARDINER.—Why?

Senator PEARCE.—It would be unjust to distribute the funds on the lines indicated by Senator Foll, because it must be remembered that the money is not to be paid to all soldiers and their dependants, but only to those who are incapacitated, or to soldiers' widows and orphans. It may be said that a high percentage of enlistments would necessarily indicate a high percentage of incapacitated soldiers, but that does not necessarily follow. If the percentage of incapacitated soldiers was low in comparison with the number of enlistments, they would receive a larger share than those in a State where the reverse was the case. They should all be treated on an equal basis, and I think Senator Foll, after reviewing the matter in this light, will be prepared to withdraw his amendment.

Senator GARDINER (New South Wales) [11.22].—The proposal of Senator Foll is that the money should be distributed in proportion to the number of enlistments; and to argue that the State that has sent the most soldiers will have the lowest number of incapacitated men or dependants is unreasonable. In all probability the casualties will be in proportion to the number of enlistments.

Senator PEARCE.—That does not follow.

Senator GARDINER.—The Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce) may have some idea as to the proportion, but I cannot imagine a fairer basis of distributing the money than that suggested.

Senator KEATING.—The honorable senator might as well say that the Victoria Cross and other honours obtained would be in proportion to the enlistments.

Senator GARDINER.—I believe they would be.

Senator KEATING.—Tasmanian soldiers received ten of the sixty awarded.

Senator GARDINER.—We are dealing with a fund created by the soldiers who enlisted and went to the Front, and an amendment has been submitted that alters the whole measure. Had the proposed new clause been embodied in the Bill when it was before this Chamber I would have had very little to say, because it meets with the objections I raised to the fund being distributed in Melbourne without the assistance of State

Advisory Committees. This amendment spreads the administration over all the States, and Senator Foll has now moved an amendment to provide that the fund shall be disbursed in proportion to the enlistments in the various States. It may be considered a rough-and-ready way of arriving at the proportion, but I think it is a fair basis on which to work. It is unreasonable to assume that one State will have a greater proportion of disabled persons, in comparison with the enlistments, than another.

Senator FOLL.—The profits from the canteens fund were made by the men who enlisted.

Senator GARDINER.—Exactly; and the question before the Committee opens up the whole Bill for further discussion. The amendment made by another place met with my approval, and I was prepared to let it pass without discussion, but Senator Foll's amendment provides that all the States shall have a fair deal. Unless the Government can submit something better I shall support his amendment.

Senator NEWLAND (South Australia) [11.25].—I am not prepared to support Senator Foll's amendment, although, possibly on the law of averages the money would be fairly evenly distributed. It appears to me, however, to be a haphazard way of distributing the funds, and the proposal should not have the support of the Committee. I ask the Committee to disagree with the proposed new clause. Honorable senators will remember that when the Bill was before this Chamber a few days ago I endeavoured to dispense with the Trust.

The CHAIRMAN (Senator Shannon).—Order! The question before the Chair is that the amendment of the amendment be agreed to.

Senator NEWLAND.—I am merely making a passing reference to what was done a few days ago, and I intend connecting my remarks with the question before the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN.—The honorable senator will have the opportunity when the amendment is amended or dispensed with of discussing the whole clause.

Senator NEWLAND.—The addition of the proposed new clause alters the whole Bill, and it is rather difficult to

discuss this phase of the question without giving my reasons.

Question.—That the amendment of the House of Representatives' amendment be agreed to—put. The Committee divided.

Ayes	5
Noes	14

Majority	9
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AYES.

Gardiner, A.	Senior, W.
Guthrie, R. S.	Teller:
Needham, E.	Foll, H. S.

NOES.

Buzacott, R.	Pearce, G. F.
Crawford, T. W.	Reid, M.
de Largie, H.	Rowell, J.
Fairbairn, G.	Russell, E. J.
Henderson, G.	Shannon, J. W.
Keating, J. H.	
Millen, E. D.	Teller:
Newland, J.	Earle, J.

Question so resolved in the negative.

Amendment of the House of Representatives' amendment negatived.

Senator NEWLAND (South Australia) [11.32].—I ask the Committee to disagree with the amendment made by another place. My reasons are largely contained in the arguments put up by the Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce), when the Bill was previously before us. I urged then that the Repatriation Department had all the machinery necessary to deal with the distribution of this money, and another place has made this amendment because its members considered that the arguments put forward in favour of the Bill as it left this Chamber were inadequate. They say, in effect, by their amendment, that the repatriation machinery will not be available for the distribution of the money, and, therefore, they are creating Committees in the various States. It will not be possible for such Committees to be worked without some expense. It was pointed out here that, even if the trustees worked voluntarily, their office expenses would be considerable. Now we are asked to appoint five other Committees—

Senator PEARCE.—Six.

Senator NEWLAND.—Will there be a Committee in this State, in addition to the Trust?

Senator PEARCE.—Oh, yes.

Senator NEWLAND.—I thought that possibly the Trust, as it would sit in Mel-

bourne, would deal also with Victorian matters. The amendment, therefore, means that six new Committees will be called into existence, with six separate sets of offices and officers, and six sets of expenses. If that kind of thing is to continue, we might as well select twenty-six persons, and allow them to divide the money amongst themselves straightway, without considering the returned soldiers or their dependants. We are simply creating machinery that will be used to fritter the money away, thus keeping it from those who ought to get it, and to whom this Committee has already decided that it should go. If we agree to such a proposal, we shall be doing something that is decidedly wrong, if not wicked, to the returned soldiers and their dependants. The proposed Committees may last for years, and whether they are paid or not their office expenses, and the salaries for their staffs, and their own expenses, will have to be paid. It is not to be supposed that all those appointed to the Committees in the different States will be in a position to work voluntarily without any remuneration for the time they lose in this business. At least, I hope they will not be.

Senator PEARCE.—They will be expected to do so, anyhow.

Senator NEWLAND.—I do not think they will do it, nor is it fair to ask people to give up their time, because, if they are going to be truly representative of the class from which the soldiers have come, they will not be able to afford the time to devote to this work voluntarily. I foresee the possibility of a large proportion of this money being frittered away in salaries and expenses. The Repatriation Department has the whole of the machinery for the distribution of the money. There is the Commission in Victoria with head-quarters here; there are in every State a Deputy Commissioner and his staff, with offices in which to work, and this central organization has the control of country Committees throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth. What more is required for the purpose of this Bill than the machinery already at the disposal of Parliament? I am confident that the Committee made a mistake in agreeing to the appointment of a Trust, as pro-

posed by the Government in the Bill as it first came to us. I hope they will not accentuate that mistake by increasing the staff required to distribute the money. I trust that the amendment will be rejected, and that the Committee will allow the Repatriation Department to deal with the fund, as it is most capable of doing.

Senator FOLL (Queensland) [11.37].—After advocating State rights in a State House, and being defeated, I think the next best thing I can do is to support the course advocated by Senator Newland, as being the most practicable way of dealing with the fund. The Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce) during the second-reading debate, and in the early stages of the Committee discussion, stressed the point that the soldiers had written to the Government to ask whether the money that had been left in trust was to be used in lieu of Government money for repatriation purposes.

The CHAIRMAN (Senator Shannon).—The honorable senator is getting wide of the question before the Committee.

Senator FOLL.—I wish to give reasons why the amendment should not be accepted, if you will give me an opportunity of dealing with the matter in my own way.

The CHAIRMAN.—I shall give the honorable senator every opportunity that the Standing Orders allow.

Senator FOLL.—I am not aware that I have yet broken any of the Standing Orders.

The CHAIRMAN.—The honorable senator must confine himself to the amendment from another place.

Senator FOLL.—I was trying to point out that the amendment should be rejected in order that the whole matter might be re-opened, and the Repatriation Department allowed to administer the fund. The returned soldiers have not said that they have any objection to the Repatriation Department dealing with the fund. What they did object to was to trust money being used in lieu of Government money for repatriation purposes. The Minister rightly replied to their letters to the effect that trust money was not being so used, and that there was no intention of so using it. The Committee will do the right thing if it rejects

the amendment, in order to open the way for Senator Newland's amendment.

The CHAIRMAN.—Senator Newland has no amendment before the Chair. The Committee must either agree to or reject the amendment from another place.

Senator FOLL.—Then I sincerely hope the Committee will reject it.

Senator EARLE (Tasmania) [11.40].—I cannot understand those honorable senators who hold that the fund ought to be administered by the established Repatriation Department raising that question at this stage. Senator Newland takes altogether an exaggerated view of the situation. The Committee, when dealing with the Bill, decided by an overwhelming majority that the fund must be administered by an independent tribunal, and not associated with a Government Department. We having decided that, what does it matter whether the proposed State Committees have statutory authority, or merely the authority of the Minister?

Senator NEWLAND.—The Committee did not decide anything of the kind.

Senator EARLE.—It was decided on division by a majority of, I think, 12 to 3, that the fund should be kept altogether separate from the Repatriation Department.

Senator NEWLAND.—It was decided that the Repatriation Department should do the necessary work in the various States.

Senator EARLE.—No. The Minister assured the Committee that it would be the policy of the trustees to appoint a Local Committee in each State to investigate cases, and advise as to the distribution of the fund. I understood all along that when the Bill was passed, and the trustees were appointed, the first thing they would do would be to bring into existence a sub-committee in each State, through the Red Cross or some other organization, to investigate applications for assistance, and that the recommendations of the sub-committees would come back to the central Trust, who would pay the amount recommended if they thought that proper inquiries had been made, and a reasonable case made out.

Senator SENIOR.—That is not a clear view of what we decided.

Senator EARLE.—The honorable senator belongs to the little opposition, and I cannot expect him to see the situation as I see it, or understand it as I understand it. We view the Bill and its purposes from different aspects. I have stated how I understand it, and as I happen for once in my life to be on the side of the majority, there must be a majority in this Committee who agree with me.

Senator SENIOR.—Your view is only a hemisphere of it.

Senator EARLE.—Then I am satisfied with a hemisphere at present. I am not particular whether the amendment of another place is accepted or not, because I am convinced that the trustees will appoint competent and responsible State Committees. I assume that the trustees are absolutely capable and honest persons. Their integrity has not been disputed or doubted in the least. I take it that even if the amendment is not carried they will appoint a Committee in each State.

Senator FOLL.—Cannot you see that we are trying to save expense in administration?

Senator EARLE.—I do not think that the honorable senator and those who support him are saving any expense. The amendment merely gives the Local Committees statutory authority. I am sure that every honorable senator has devoted days and nights of his time gratuitously to the welfare of different sections of the community. I worked for years on honorary committees. It has been my duty night after night to attend honorary committees dealing with different affairs affecting the people in my district, and to give services for which I never received a sixpence. Are there not men and women in every State who are imbued with the same patriotic spirit? I venture to say that there are plenty of persons who will only be too glad to assist in the administration of this fund by offering their services in an honorary capacity. I do not fear the effect of the amendment; and, as the other branch of the Legislature has seen fit to insert it, I shall support it.

Question—That the House of Representatives' amendment be agreed to—put. The Committee divided.

Ayes	15
Noes	4
Majority	11

AYES.

Buzacott, R.	Pearce, G. F.
Crawford, T. W.	Plain, W.
de Largie, H.	Reid, M.
Fairbairn, G.	Rowell, J.
Gardiner, A.	Russell, E. J.
Henderson, G.	Shannon, J. W.
Keating, J. H.	Teller:
Millen, E. D.	Earle, J.

NOES.

Guthrie, R. S.	Teller:
Newland, J.	Foll, H. S.

Question so resolved in the affirmative.

Motion agreed to.

Resolution reported; report adopted.

PAPERS.

The following papers were presented:—

Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine, Townsville, Queensland—Yearly Report, 1st January to 31st December, 1919.

Papua.—Annual Report for the year 1918-19.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

THIRD READING.

Motion (by Senator RUSSELL) proposed—

That this Bill be now read a third time.

Senator GARDINER (New South Wales) [11.53].—In the absence of an alteration in our Standing Orders which will permit of a single honorable senator upon this side of the chamber calling for a division—an alteration which I hope will be effected—there will be no means in the near future by which I can emphasize my opposition to any measure.

Senator PEARCE.—That condition of affairs will not obtain until the end of June.

Senator GARDINER.—And I am preparing for the end of June. I wish to enter my protest against this most objectionable Bill. It provides for a method of dealing with late enemy subjects with which I entirely disagree. The war is over, and peace has been not merely signed, but ratified. Yet we find the Go-

vernment exhibiting so much hostility to late enemy subjects that even a youth who may be desirous of leaving Germany during the next five years will be denied admission to the Commonwealth. Whilst the war was in progress, there were a very large number of enemy subjects in this country, and I challenge the Government to point to any acts by these people which caused them very much uneasiness. It would be wise for us to enter wholeheartedly into the peace which is now with us. I take it that the German soldier who fought for his country occupies precisely the same position as does the soldier who fought with the Allies. There is nothing discreditable about the action of a man who joins the colours and fights for his country. On the contrary, there is something exceedingly creditable to him. Under this Bill, late enemy subjects are to be penalized by being refused admission to the Commonwealth for a period of five years. Yet I know of whole towns in Australia which have been established by German colonists. If we possessed only a little scrap of territory in which there was only room for ourselves, there might be some reason for wishing to exclude desirable settlers from abroad. We all know that Britain and Germany were ancient allies, and that on many a battlefield their soldiers have fought together. In the late war, the position was otherwise. That, however, was not due to the will of the people of Germany, but to that of a dominant military caste there. The record of Australia during the war is such that it ought not to be marred by petty legislation of this character. The measure appeals to the lowest passions of humanity. The war being over, the sooner we get back to normal conditions the better. To seek to impose such a prohibition upon the admission to the Commonwealth of late enemy subjects is altogether derogatory to our national dignity. I quite recognise that it will be futile for me to call for a division on this matter, because only a few minutes ago we witnessed the humiliating spectacle of a majority of the Nationalist party supporting an amendment made by another place which they were not prepared to accept when the measure to which it related was under consideration in this Chamber.

Senator RUSSELL (Victoria—Vice-President of the Executive Council)

[11.59].—With a good deal of what Senator Gardiner has said I am in entire agreement. He has pointed out that the war was largely caused by an autocratic military caste in Germany. Whilst I quite recognise that, it cannot be denied that the people of any country must collectively accept full responsibility for the particular form of government which obtains there. There was a time in England when that country was ruled by a despotic class. But Britons altered those conditions long ago. Though the entire responsibility for the late war does not rest upon every individual in Germany, it must be acknowledged that all German citizens humbly acquiesced in the action of their ruling military caste. People may not be guilty of an offence by direct action, but if by acquiescence in a policy that enables a certain class to take possession and direct the policy of the Government, then they cannot be altogether excused. It has been contended that there has been a revolution in Germany in favour of constitutional government. I hope this is true, and I feel quite satisfied that as soon as Germany furnishes proof that she has abandoned for ever a desire for military authority, and has embraced the principles of Democracy, she will receive the privileges of citizenship in the Commonwealth. Nobody would then be more willing than I to lift the embargo which this Bill places upon the introduction to Australia of people of that country. But I remind honorable senators that there have been rumours of revolutions and counter-revolutions in Germany, and that an outstanding feature of this upheaval is the fact that the military party appears to be again making an attempt to secure control. In view of what the Empire has gone through, we have every right now to be careful. During my administration of the Defence Department I had no occasion to intern any person, but I investigated, I should say, very nearly 1,000 cases which came before me, and though sometimes I had wondered whether we were not a little bit panicky in regard to these people, my investigation of hundreds of cases showed that the evidence was very much stronger than I believed it to be. Possibly this may have been due to the German system of education, but, at all events, it appears that they have not yet reached that stage of civilization which justifies our lifting the embargo. I admire the fight which certain sections of

Senator Russell.

Germany are putting up for constitutional government, but, after all, this fight is only being waged by a certain section of the people. An equally strong section appears to be fighting for the retention of military domination. But, as I have already said, when Germany gives evidence that she is under a democratic and constitutional government responsible to the people, there will be no further objection to receiving them whole-heartedly as citizens of the Commonwealth. I trust, therefore, that the Bill will not be further delayed. It is essential that it should be on our statute-book temporarily if not permanently.

Question resolved in the affirmative.
Bill read a third time.

ALIENS REGISTRATION BILL.

SECOND READING.

Debate resumed from 28th April (*vide* page 1519), on motion by Senator Russell.—

That this Bill be now read a second time.

Senator EARLE (Tasmania) [12.5].—It is strange that the Leader of the Opposition (Senator Gardiner) who is always so ready to oppose Bills which, in the opinion of honorable senators on this side are essential to the welfare of the State, should be acquiescent concerning this measure, the passage of which, I think, should be opposed. It is undoubtedly the outcome of our experiences during the five or six black years of war, when, no doubt, it would have been convenient for the Government to exercise such drastic power in order to ascertain the movements of every non-British citizen in the Commonwealth. But now that the time of stress has ended, we ought to avoid passing legislation which might, in a very serious degree, harass those who may wish to come to Australia, and who, in all probability, would develop into very good citizens. The definition clause states that every person who is not of British nationality is an alien. And so Americans, Frenchmen, Belgians, Danes, Swedes, or Norwegians, all of whom would make excellent citizens, will be regarded as aliens, and subject to all the disabilities sought to be imposed upon aliens by this measure. The definition clause also states that an officer means—

A member of the police force, or an officer of Customs, or an officer of the Department

administering this Act, or a prescribed officer, or any person authorized by the Minister to exercise the powers conferred on officers by this Act.

This means practically that any officer of the Public Service may be authorized to exercise the powers referred to.

In clause 6 there is provision for a penalty of £100 or imprisonment for six months—the maximum penalty, of course—on aliens who land before registration, although the alien concerned may be arrested while seeking a registrar so that he may comply with the Act.

Senator RUSSELL.—No; the registrar will go on board the vessel.

Senator EARLE.—But suppose the registrar does not go on a boat on its arrival at an Australian port, and an alien who may be on board sets out to find him? If by any chance an officious policeman or an ambitious officer from some Department meets that man he will have power to arrest him, and the alien will be liable to the penalties I have mentioned. I admit, of course, that this is rather an extravagant view of the possibilities, but the fact that any officer of the Commonwealth may have power to arrest a man in these circumstances is sufficient reason for objecting to this class of legislation.

In clause 9, there is provision for an officer to require the signature and thumb prints of an alien, who will, therefore, be treated as a criminal, and if he refuses to submit to this indignity, a maximum penalty of £100 or six months' imprisonment may be "shovelled" out to him.

The measure is altogether too drastic, though I can quite understand the need for its introduction during war time. The one thing we need in Australia is more population. We ought to have at least 10,000,000 of people here, and so we should give every encouragement to the peoples of other nationalities who are likely to uphold the standard of our race and become good citizens. We cannot have a better class than those I have already named.

Senator RUSSELL.—The provision with regard to thumb prints has been inserted to meet the case of Chinese and other Asiatics, who in the past have been exchanging their passports. It is impossible to identify them otherwise.

Senator EARLE.—I could understand the need for the clause if it referred

specifically to Asiatics, but it includes everybody. There can be no justification for taking the power by statutory law to harass any person desiring to enter the Commonwealth, but who does not happen to be of British nationality.

Senator RUSSELL.—A man may be a suspected felon.

Senator EARLE.—Of course; but the clause would apply to the average alien, and, in my judgment, it is quite unnecessary.

Clause 11 contains further harassing provisions. It requires any alien who changes his place of abode to notify the registrar, so that a tourist coming from, say, America to Melbourne, and putting up at Menzies' Hotel, would have to register, and then, if he went to the Hotel Australia, in Sydney, he would have to re-register, otherwise he would be liable to a penalty.

Clause 13 sets out that every hotelkeeper must question strangers who seek accommodation. In the language of the clause, the hotelkeeper would be called upon to ask a stranger his name, nationality, date of arrival, previous place of abode, if arrived by a vessel, the name of vessel, date of departure, destination on departure, and, if departing by a vessel, the name of the vessel. Fancy every hotelkeeper having to put these questions to strangers who apply for accommodation, and entering the replies in a register for the information of the authorities? I am afraid some will get into serious trouble if they have not got it all ready for an officer, who, as I have already shown, may be almost any member of the Public Service.

Senator RUSSELL.—No; men will be definitely appointed.

Senator EARLE.—The definition clause is too wide altogether. Almost any member of the Public Service might be an "officer" under this Bill.

Senator GARDINER.—Did not the honorable senator support this Bill when we had it before us last year?

Senator EARLE.—I am prepared to give any Government absolute control of people during war time.

Senator GARDINER.—We had this Bill under consideration before—after the war was over.

Senator EARLE.—I believe that the measure to which the honorable senator refers was discussed in the Senate while

the war was continuing. I had to do many things which I did not like whilst the nation was at war. I do not like war, but I admit that stringent and drastic action may be necessary to preserve the country in such a crisis. Therefore, to say that I supported such a measure during war time is no argument against my opposition to this Bill at the present time.

Under clause 17 any officer may at any time require a person believed by him to be an alien to answer any question as to his name, birthplace, nationality, place of residence, movements, business, and so forth. One of the many "officers" who might be appointed under this Bill would be in a position under this clause to demand all this information from a man who desired to peacefully settle in Australia.

Clause 19 provides that an officer may arrest an alien without warrant. In the circumstances in which the Commonwealth is now placed, we desire men from many nations to come to this country and become citizens. We have ample power under existing legislation to safeguard the Commonwealth against undesirable immigrants. If the Government desire immigration, I think they will be well advised if they withdraw this Bill.

Senator FAIRBAIRN (Victoria) [12.19].—I understand that the object of the Bill is to prevent in the future what the Germans proved themselves so successful at in the past, namely, the "peaceful penetration" of Australia by German citizens. Germany used to send out so-called immigrants who were really emissaries of the German Government to settle in the Commonwealth, in order that they might gradually undermine our institutions. We know, as a matter of fact, that many of these persons were actually spies while in this country.

Senator EARLE.—Many of the German immigrants were good settlers. It would be impossible under this Bill to discriminate between them and the persons to whom the honorable senator refers.

Senator FAIRBAIRN.—A great many Germans who came to this country were anything but good settlers, though I am prepared to agree with Senator Earle that some German immigrants were amongst our best settlers. They were

splendid men, and they have to suffer for the iniquity of their fellow countrymen.

Senator FOLL.—Would the honorable senator make no difference between an enemy alien and a friendly alien?

Senator FAIRBAIRN.—I do not see how that can be done.

Senator RUSSELL.—The class of settlers to whom the honorable senator refers—immigrants desiring to settle here and make homes for themselves and their families—should become naturalized, and then the provisions of this Bill would not apply to them.

Senator EARLE.—They would apply to them during the period between their entry into the Commonwealth and their naturalization.

Senator FAIRBAIRN.—Senator Earle mentioned with abhorrence the possibility of the provisions of this Bill applying to immigrants from France, Belgium, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and other countries with which we have friendly relations. Up to a certain point there is force in the honorable senator's objection; but he should remember that the districts of Alsace and Lorraine are now parts of France, and there are many people in those districts who have strong German sympathies. How could we differentiate between the splendid Frenchmen whom we should be glad to welcome here, and people who might really be sent by the German Government from the districts to which I have referred to carry out their former policy of peaceful penetration in Australia?

If we consider the Belgians, who suffered so much and fought so gallantly on the side of the Allies during the war, honorable senators who have spoken to our returned soldiers must know that there were a very great many Belgian spies who were men of no principle, and prepared to serve any side for their own advantage. How could we differentiate between men who might be sent here by our late enemies, and who would be a positive danger to the country in the event of another war, and immigrants intending to peacefully settle in Australia, and become citizens of this country?

With regard to the immigration of Danes, we should remember that Denmark recently had a considerable accession to her territory, and we saw by the voting at the plebiscite which took place, that a considerable number of the people

of the districts concerned were persons of strong German sympathies. With respect to Norwegians and Swedes, we know that during the war the people of Sweden were hand in glove with the Germans, and we do not want as immigrants to this country people of Sweden who have strong German sympathies. If they were admitted to this country, they would probably be prepared to carry on the iniquitous campaign of peaceful penetration with which we have been made so familiar.

We want population in Australia, and we should be glad, I think, to welcome even the right sort of Germans if we could get them, and they could be relied upon to behave themselves after their arrival here. From the experience we have had, I am afraid that many of them would not be found to be of our way of thinking.

I think that the provisions of this Bill should not apply to travellers touring this country.

Senator RUSSELL.—They will not.

Senator FAIRBAIRN.—I am glad to hear the Minister say that. We should encourage the ordinary tourist from America desiring to take a look round the country to see whether it would be advisable for him to start in business here, or to buy our wool and other products.

As the war is now over, and as there is a certain amount of disgrace attached to the taking of finger prints, which is nearly always associated with a suspicion of crime, the provision dealing with that matter might be modified when we get into Committee. I think that a measure of this sort is absolutely necessary. We want to know who are Australians and who are aliens, and the Government must be given every facility to obtain that information, so that we may not run the risk of admitting enemy spies to the country. I knew one or two of them, but, fortunately for themselves, they knew when war was to be declared, and they left Australia before it was declared. We must be in a position to have such people under control. We should remember further that, gallant as the French proved themselves to be, there are bad Frenchmen. We know that men who were in high places in France have actually been shot as traitors to their country.

We need immigrants badly, but we must have the right sort. We want men who fought for the Empire, and we should be glad to welcome that class of Germans who, in the past, came to settle in Australia in order to escape the restrictions upon their liberties to which they were subjected in their own country. In Committee, some amendments might be considered to meet Senator Earle's objections.

Senator EARLE.—If we agree to the second reading of the Bill, we might as well pass it. I, personally, do not think there is any need for such a Bill.

Senator FAIRBAIRN.—I agree that some of the clauses are very drastic. The Minister might be willing to modify them, but it is, in my view, absolutely necessary to give the Government power to deal drastically with the class of immigrants who, in the past, proved such a danger to Australia.

Senator FOLL (Queensland) [12.26].—I should like to know what is our position in relation to the people of other countries who have adopted legislation similar to the Passports Bill, with which we were dealing yesterday. Some very drastic provisions have been included in the Passports Bill which might be applied to persons visiting this country, possibly with the intention to settle here. I realize that it is necessary to have some power of supervision of people coming to Australia, but this Bill carries the precautions a little too far. A case was brought under my notice recently of a gentleman who came here from America. He came to Australia with his wife on what was practically a pleasure trip, but while here he was considering the advisability of investing in a certain primary industry in Australia. When this gentleman arrived in Sydney by one of the American boats, it was necessary for him to undergo the cross-examination provided for under this Bill, and at present provided for under the War Precautions Act. He had to carry about with him in his pocket a certificate with his finger-prints on it describing him as an alien. And, as Senator Earle pointed out in his able speech, this man could not leave one hotel or one place to go to another without first notifying the local police station as to where he was going.

Senator DE LARGIE.—Surely the honorable senator is making a mistake!

Senator FOLL.—I am not. I am prepared to give Senator de Largie the name of the gentleman to whom I refer, and he can make inquiries from him himself. Senator Reid also met this gentleman, and knows the man to whom I refer. If we are to adopt in its entirety the system in operation in the countries of Europe prior to the war, we shall unnecessarily restrict the liberties of visitors to Australia who may be intending to settle here.

Senator DE LARGIE (Western Australia) [12.29].—I should not have troubled the Senate with any remarks on this Bill but for the extraordinary statement just made by Senator Foll.

Senator FOLL.—I can substantiate it. I do not make loose statements.

Senator DE LARGIE.—I hope the honorable senator will be able to substantiate it, because such a statement as he has made should not be allowed to go without challenge. He says that an American citizen, on arrival in Australia, after he has gone through the ordinary passport examination, must, if leaving one town to go to another, notify the authorities of his intention.

Senator FOLL.—This Bill provides for the same thing.

Senator DE LARGIE.—I am not talking of the Bill just now, but of the practice which Senator Foll asserts is followed at the present time.

Senator FOLL.—Let the honorable senator read the War Precautions regulations dealing with the matter.

Senator DE LARGIE.—The War Precautions regulations are not in vogue at the present time.

Senator FOLL.—The regulation to which I refer is in operation now.

Senator DE LARGIE.—As far as passports were concerned, it was necessary for every traveller to possess one—

Senator RUSSELL.—Certain regulations under the War Precautions Act are practically the same as the provisions in this Bill.

Senator GARDINER.—It is merely extending the War Precautions Act by legislation.

Senator DE LARGIE.—I certainly thought that an American citizen visiting

the Commonwealth required a passport to admit him, but I do not think he is under any further obligation.

Senator RUSSELL.—He would be absolutely free.

Senator DE LARGIE.—I cannot understand an American tourist visiting Australia being compelled to report to the authorities at every centre, as that is quite contrary to the practice, and also, I believe, to the provisions in this Bill.

Senator FOLL.—I am prepared to submit the name to the Minister to enable inquiries to be made. I think that is fair.

Senator DE LARGIE.—Senator Foll has made the statement, and further inquiries should be made, as the position is most extraordinary. During the war period I have known of American citizens visiting this country, but I have never heard of one having to submit to the restrictions mentioned. There must be something more than Senator Foll has stated, because surely an individual would not have to report his arrival and departure at every place he visited unless he was a criminal or a suspect? We should not have cases of that kind submitted without the fullest possible particulars being given, because I do not think an average tourist has to report in the manner suggested.

Senator GARDINER (New South Wales) [12.35].—I was very much surprised at Senator Earle complaining because it was not my intention to speak on the second reading of this Bill. The honorable senator must remember that in June or July of last year a similar measure was before the Senate, and on that occasion I discussed its provisions at some length, and Senator Earle opposed every suggestion I brought forward. I am glad to see that his mind is now working, as he has not used one argument against this Bill that I did not bring forward nine months ago. I am so disgusted with its provisions that I did not intend discussing it, as it seems futile to be continually putting my objections to legislation of this character before the Senate, when, sitting alone, I am unable to get a division. If I had opposed the Bill, Senator Earle's loyalty to the Government would have been such, that notwithstanding the arguments I brought forward, he would have supported his col-

leagues. That is my experience of the honorable senator since he has been a member of the Chamber.

Senator SHANNON.—He is supporting the honorable senator now, and there is a possibility of a division being obtained.

Senator GARDINER.—If I called for a division I suppose he would walk out of the Chamber rather than vote against the Government. The Bill that was before the Senate last year contained all the objectionable clauses embodied in the present measure, and I remember holding up the Senate and drawing attention to the inconvenience and expense that would be caused by compelling hotelkeepers and boardinghouse proprietors to register the names of their boarders. This is the most ridiculous piece of legislation ever introduced into any Parliament—

Senator EARLE.—It was all right during the war.

Senator GARDINER.—In order to keep a record of one or two who may be regarded by some as undesirable, the whole travelling community is to be inconvenienced. Senator Russell assured the Senate that the provisions of this Bill do not apply to tourists, but such is not the case, because a person entering the Commonwealth has to register his or her name, under a penalty of £100.

Senator RUSSELL.—All oversea travellers, on leaving a vessel, have to register.

Senator GARDINER.—Of course they have, even law-abiding tourists visiting the country.

Senator RUSSELL.—A tourist does not have to report after he has landed, neither has a person who has taken up his abode here.

Senator GARDINER.—If a tourist visits Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide or Perth he has to register, and one can easily imagine the consternation that will be caused at our leading residential establishments when an oversea vessel arrives with a full passenger list. The hotelkeepers or persons in charge of boarding establishments of any kind are under a penalty of £100 if they fail to record the particulars outlined in this Bill. Senator Earle stated that he was in favour of legislation of this kind during the war period, but when we were discussing a similar measure last year the war was over. I am glad, however, that

he now realizes that the Bill contains many objectionable features. Perhaps the Vice-President of the Executive Council (Senator Russell), in reply, will give some reasons for submitting such a proposal. The Bill provides in clause 13 that—

It shall be the duty of the keeper of every hotel, inn, boardinghouse, and lodging-house in Australia, to provide himself with a register for the purpose of this section, and to ascertain and enter therein the following particulars of all aliens staying at the hotel, inn, boardinghouse, or lodginghouse:—Name, nationality, date of arrival, previous place of abode, if arrived by vessel, name of vessel, date of departure, destination on departure, if departing by vessel, name of vessel—

Imagine Senator de Largie, for instance, endeavouring to secure accommodation at an hotel. The proprietor would probably say, "Hullo! here is a foreigner." Although the honorable senator possesses a distinctly French name, it is more than probable his ancestors were taken across to Scotland by some worthy immigrants. Senator de Largie, under such circumstances, would have to submit to a severe cross-examination, lasting, perhaps, twenty minutes, at a time when he might be anxious to proceed with urgent business. Imagine the annoyance and inconvenience to which travellers will be put when they have to submit to a severe cross-examination by an inquisitive hotelkeeper. The clause continues—

and if the keeper of an hotel, inn, boarding-house, or lodging-house fails to provide himself with a register, or to ascertain, or enter therein the foregoing particulars in respect of any alien staying at his premises,

I wish to direct honorable senators' attention particularly to the concluding portion of the clause—

or if he makes any entry in any register which he knows, or could by the exercise of reasonable diligence have ascertained, to be false, shall be guilty of an offence.

It is not merely a matter of putting questions to a traveller, but the hotelkeeper has to ascertain by the exercise of reasonable diligence whether the statements submitted are accurate or otherwise. A woman of foreign birth may be the wife of an Australian citizen, and because she desires to temporarily reside at an hotel full particulars will have to be recorded. It will mean that a staff of clerks will be required to perform the necessary

work. In many of our leading residential establishments it is difficult enough at present for the proprietors to conduct their businesses, without being compelled to undertake work on behalf of the Government. This legislation is absolutely unnecessary now the war is over, and I hope the Senate will defeat the second reading. Under the pretence of doing something in the interests of the community, the Government are re-enacting certain of the War Precautions Regulations. Some of the regulations are mentioned, but I do not know whether they are incorporated in the Bill.

Senator RUSSELL.—This will be the only Act dealing with this matter.

Senator GARDINER.—Covering those regulations?

Senator RUSSELL.—Those that are embodied in the Bill. Fully 70,000 aliens are already registered, and we are not asking them to re-register.

Senator GARDINER.—Possibly not; but what of the annoyance and inconvenience to be caused to the travelling public, to say nothing of the trouble that will be given to the proprietors of residential establishments. Consider the position of tourists visiting Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, or Brisbane, and realize the expense and inconvenience to which they will be put.

Senator KEATING.—And what of Hobart?

Senator GARDINER.—I should have placed Hobart first, because the hotelkeepers there will be the worst sufferers. During the summer months thousands of people who can afford to do so visit that desirable resort.

I can easily imagine Senator Plain, for instance, registering at an hotel, and, although he may look like a Scotchman, the proprietor may think he is a German; and in that assumption he may be right, as Carlyle claimed that the Scotch consisted chiefly of the descendants of Germans, and he is an authority. Let us consider the position that would arise if Senators de Largie and Plain were travelling together. Would not an hotelkeeper be justified in believing that he was dealing with a combination of foreign individuals? If Senator Shannon happened to be with them, he would

probably say, "Hulloa! Here is Ludendorff."

Senator FOLL.—Do you think an hotelkeeper would admit them?

Senator GARDINER.—If Senator Foll was with them, he would say, "Here is a crowd of spies intent on stirring up strife in Australia."

Apart from the humorous aspect which this measure presents, we have to realize the position in which a traveller will find himself. Senator Russell may smile; but it is not going to be an easy matter for an hotelkeeper, nor is the Bill likely to prove of any benefit to the community. I will not further delay its passage, but it is the most useless piece of legislation that we have ever been called upon to discuss. Notwithstanding what Senator Fairbairn has said concerning undesirables, I consider that all nationalities are really on the one footing. There are some Americans as good as some Australians, and there are some Australians as bad as some Americans. There is some equality in civilization, and we cannot discriminate.

Senator FOLL.—The Immigration Bill recently passed deals with undesirable immigrants.

Senator GARDINER.—Yes; but this is additional, and altogether unnecessary. Legislation of this kind does nothing effective, and will not bring us any nearer having reliable records. What it really means is that a piece of war-time legislation that was deemed to be necessary during the war is to be continued now that peace has returned. This Bill, prepared during the war, now comes to the Senate, which, I suppose, will pass it, or it may be left, as on the last occasion, partly considered, and then we shall wait another nine months for it. I hope the Minister, in reply, will be able to tell us if there is any real reason why the whole of the community should be put to all this trouble by provisions which, even if they are carried out, will be of very little importance so far as the people of Australia are concerned.

Senator REID (Queensland) [12.47].—Senator Earle and Senator Gardiner overlook one phase of this matter. While in theory their arguments might be very good if the people they have in their minds were to come here, at the present time Australia has every right to protect

the citizens she already has and to safeguard their liberties in every possible way. During the present unrest, and the moving about of individuals, the Bill is very necessary. Senator de Largie has handed me a card which he, although an Australian senator, had to sign when entering Canada. He had to report himself, although he was practically the guest of the Canadian Government. Every one who enters Canada has to sign such a card and produce it for three years after he lands there. The regulations of the United States of America are even more strict. Necessity and experience have evidently taught the United States of America and Canada, which in the past were open to immigrants, that they must enforce restrictions. The United States of America is one of the most glaring examples of the misuse of the liberty which that great country offered to European immigrants. One of the most serious troubles that the American people have to face now is to pick out a number of these immigrants and send them away again. Registration helps in that way. No doubt it is an inconvenience to some visitors, and will be some trouble to hotelkeepers and others, but it is a very necessary precaution, and will be of great use if carried out properly. I am sure that no one in Australia is desirous of having a class of immigrants entering this country who are likely to become a danger to the liberties we enjoy under our present free Constitution. We have had very little experience, except our war experience, in this matter, and the best guide for us is the example of the United States of America and Canada, which are going, not by their war experience, but by their ordinary civil experience of those undesirables who have entered their countries and become a nuisance to them. The card which Senator de Largie has shown me is not merely a war precaution. It is a precaution dictated by experience in dealing with those undesirable persons whom the Canadian authorities find it necessary to keep under supervision for three years. Any one acquainted with affairs in the United States at present must know the very serious conditions obtaining there. In some of the districts they practically amount to civil war. Class consciousness is carried to such an extent as to create a war between those who wish to preserve the rights of the citizens and those

who wish to destroy all organized government. Therefore, although I am personally in favour of allowing every one to come to Australia and enjoy its liberties, I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that it is our duty to protect those liberties, not only for our own sake, but for the sake of those who are growing up around us. I have no hesitation in supporting the Bill, which is a very necessary precaution.

Senator RUSSELL (Victoria—Vice-President of the Executive Council) [12.51].—It will be better to deal with the points raised in Committee, because most of them seem to consist of misunderstandings regarding the probable operation of various provisions. Senator Gardiner said the Bill would not add anything new to our records, or improve them. The very object of the Bill is to add to and improve our records. There are over 71,000 aliens registered in Australia today under the War Precautions Act. It is not the intention of the Government to continue that Act, and if this Bill is not put through all those records will be lost. If they are kept, all that will be necessary is to keep them up to date. It is very desirable to know as much as possible about the alien population of Australia. Senator Gardiner said the Bill would necessitate the employment of a new clerk in every hotel. If so many foreigners are coming to this country, it is a fair thing for us to ask who they are and what they are doing here. The honorable senator argued that hotelkeepers would be subjected to all sorts of regulations and restrictions. If I go to Sydney, the first thing the hotelkeeper does is to ask me my name, address, and occupation. Under this Bill, as soon as a man gives a foreign name, the hotelkeeper will ask him a few simple questions. When I asked the honorable senator if he could tell me of any case where a new clerk had to be specially put on to this work in any hotel in Australia, he could not name one. Registration went on under the War Precautions Act during the war.

Senator GARDINER.—The hotelkeeper is not responsible under the War Precautions Act for the visitors to his hotel, but under this Bill he will have to exercise due diligence to see that his records are correct.

Senator RUSSELL.—The necessary forms will be prescribed, including certain lists of questions, and all the hotelkeeper will have to do will be to keep them. A registration officer will board every vessel at its first port of call in Australia. The passengers will be mustered, and the officer will register them. One honorable senator expressed the fear that a passenger might miss the officer. If the officer was not there, the passenger could not be convicted for not finding him when he was wanted. Tourists will not have to register again, except that at the hotel the publican will register their names and other ordinary particulars. If publicans ask half-a-dozen intelligent questions as prescribed, they will be no more responsible than any other man in Australia. There is another class of person, not a tourist, who lands in Australia, establishes an abode, but does not become naturalized. We have a right to say, "Here is a German coming into our midst who shows no desire to become a citizen of Australia."

Senator GARDINER.—You will not let a German become naturalized now.

Senator RUSSELL.—The honorable senator is speaking of a temporary war period, but take any alien other than an enemy alien, and suppose that he does not become naturalized. If a man enters our country and wants to live in it and to exploit it commercially or otherwise, and shows no desire to become a naturalized citizen, it is at least fair that we should know who and what he is. Had we taken that precaution prior to the war we should have had better information during wartime about aliens. This Bill has one weakness, and that is that the man we really want to get hold of—and especially the woman, because that has been our experience—is clever enough to beat the lot of us, and can get over or through all the Acts we like to pass. Whatever may be the permanent fate of legislation of this character, the Government feel that it is necessary to have it until the world settles down to normal conditions once more.

Question—That the Bill be now read a second time—put. The Senate divided.

Ayes .. .	16
Noes .. .	2
—	
Majority .. .	14

AYES.	
Buzacott, R.	Plain, W.
Fairbairn, G.	Reid, M.
Foll, H. S.	Rowell, J.
Guthrie, R. S.	Russell, E. J.
Henderson, G.	Senior, W.
Keating, J. H.	Shannon, J. W.
Milien, E. D.	
Newland, J.	
Pearce, G. F.	

Teller:
de Largie, H.

NOES.	
Gardiner, A.	Teller:
	Earle, J.
Question so resolved in the affirmative.	
Bill read a second time.	

In Committee:

Clause 1 agreed to.

Progress reported.

ADJOURNMENT.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT: CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION: ALLEGED MILITARY CLIQUE.

Motion (by Senator MILLEN) proposed—

That the Senate do now adjourn.

Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

Senator GARDINER (New South Wales) [2.30].—This morning I asked a question of the Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce) regarding a reply that he gave to a quotation which I had made from a speech by Mr. Kelly. I made that quotation without any consultation with Mr. Kelly, who seems to think that the reply of Senator Pearce somehow misrepresents the position. In justice, therefore, to Mr. Kelly, I take this opportunity of placing upon record a copy of a letter I have received from him. I would not make use of this communication if it were of a confidential character, but in it Mr. Kelly says—

You are at liberty to use this letter in any way you think fit.

That being so, I propose to make use of it by placing it upon record in *Hansard*. It reads—

Australian Club,
Sydney, 21st April, 1920.
Senator the Honorable Albert Gardiner,
Parliament House, Melbourne.

Dear Senator Gardiner,—

My attention has been drawn to Senator Pearce's reply to your question of the 16th inst. I do not mind the Minister's reflection upon my motives, for one is accustomed to small things from that gentleman. But I am

concerned with his misstatement of fact as to General Bridges.

That officer, who, as Inspector-General, was marked out for command in time of war, told me in Lennan's Hotel, Brisbane, on the Saturday before the outbreak of war, that he was under orders to proceed to Port Darwin to report upon the militia detentions of that port. His ship was to sail that morning. Suspecting a trick to side-tracking, I then asked him if he would accept an order from me (I was not a Minister in his Department) to return to Melbourne. He agreed to do so, and I immediately wired to Senator Millen informing him of my action. My colleague replied asking me to ask the General to remain in Brisbane pending instructions. My colleague then recalled him to Melbourne.

I do not think Senator Millen will deny these facts, but should his memory not be as clear as mine, the wires (unless placed upon his private file) should be on record. At any rate his wire recalling the General should certainly be on record, and that was despatched after the vessel which the General was instructed to catch had left Brisbane. If evidence were required of Senator Pearce's subservience to-day to a military clique (shall I call it the seniority brigade?) which is determined to prevent the utilization of the best brains brought out by the war, you will find it in the studied insult to General Monash in the Governor-General's speech opening Parliament, and in the fact that no citizen officer, however brilliant, has been deemed worthy of permanent military employment as are permanent officers whose war records were far from successful.

Senator GUTHRIE.—I rise to a point of order. I call attention to the state of the House.

Senator Gardiner reading.

The PRESIDENT (Senator the Hon. T. Givens).—Order! Attention having been called to the state of the House, business cannot be proceeded with until the bells have been rung and a quorum formed.

Senator Gardiner still reading,

The PRESIDENT.—Order! I direct the *Hansard* reporter to take no notice of the matter read after the call for a quorum.

Senator Foll having left the chamber,

The PRESIDENT.—I direct the Usher of the Black Rod to bring Senator Foll back to the Chamber.

Senator Foll having returned,

The PRESIDENT.—I would point out to the honorable senator that he should not have left the chamber while the bells were ringing for a quorum.

Senator FOLL.—I beg your pardon, sir, I was not aware of any standing order which forbids that.

The PRESIDENT.—The bells having been rung for two minutes, and there being no quorum present, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 o'clock on Wednesday next.

Senate adjourned at 2.37 p.m.

House of Representatives.

Friday, 30 April, 1920.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. W. Elliot Johnson) took the chair at 11 a.m., and read prayers.

ADJOURNMENT (Formal).

WAR INTERNEES.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I have received from the honorable member for Yarra an intimation that he desires to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, “The desirability of all native-born and naturalized Australian citizens who were interned knowing the charges on which they were interned, so that they may have an opportunity of disproving such charges; and the necessity of having an inquiry into the treatment of internees and the administration of internment camps.”

Five honorable members having risen in their places,

Question proposed.

Mr. TUDOR (Yarra) [11.4].—The last occasion on which this matter was brought before the House was, I think, when it was raised by the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs), a year ago, or a little less, and the then Acting Prime Minister (Mr. Watt) dealt with the subject, and made a reply to what was said. On the 15th April, I asked the Minister representing the Minister for Defence the following questions upon notice, to which I received the replies attached to them:—

1. How many persons are at present interned in Australia?—Thirty-two.
2. When is it intended to release them?—Such as are not repatriated will be released as soon as transport arrangements are completed, which will take place at an early date.

3. Seeing that the armistice was signed in November, 1918, what is the reason for still detaining them?—Practically all these internees are from New Guinea, and decision was held up pending receipt of mandate and settlement of Government policy, and at a later period detention was caused by inability to obtain transport.

The war is now over, and we are at peace with Germany—the native country of many of the persons who were interned. I think that no member of the House has fewer naturalized Germans, or Australians born of German parentage, as his constituents than I have. When the first referendum was taken, and such persons had to vote under section 9, only twenty or thirty votes were so recorded in the Yarra electorate, and most of those who voted under the section were proved not to be of German origin. One of them was able to trace back his parentage for 200 years, and to show his British ancestry for the whole of that period, which is, perhaps, more than most of us could do. Therefore, I am not moving now with the idea of catching votes; I am actuated merely by the desire that every person in this community shall receive fair treatment. Those who have been interned should not be allowed to rest under the stigma of having done something justifying their internment. Recently, at Loxton, in South Australia, an inquiry was conducted on behalf of the Government by Mr. Hewitson, S.M., into the alleged disloyalty of certain Germans there. This extract shows how the magistrate reported about one of those against whom the charge of disloyalty was made:—

The Commissioner referred to Mr. Drabsch's "undeniable war services as Chairman of the Recruiting Committee, the Australian Soldiers' Fund, and Belgian Relief Fund, his proved public and private utterances and the enlistment of one of his own sons, apparently with his approval," and found that this accusation was based only on ill-founded and ungenerous suspicion.

What is said of Mr. Drabsch is true, I think, of a number of other citizens, whose only fault was that they bore a German name. But every one knows that many Germans left their native country because of their aversion to the German military system. That was true of the head teacher of a school to which I went about forty years ago, and

I believe was the case with the father of Mr. Ulbrich, an organizer for the Nationalist party in this city. Yet the sons of some of these men were interned, and they were not informed of the charges against them. They feel, however, that their internment is a reflection upon them. Mr. Drabsch was taken from the State in which he was born, and where his home is, to New South Wales, and was there for some time.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—A long time. You have picked out the best of the crowd.

Mr. TUDOR.—The magistrate's report was handed to me last night, and, naturally, I have begun with the strongest case, but not one charge made against the people of Loxton is true.

Mr. BLUNDELL.—Was it not proved that a number of these men marched down the streets of Loxton doing the goose-step?

Mr. TUDOR.—No.

Mr. BLUNDELL.—The whole crowd of them were absolutely disloyal.

Mr. TUDOR.—I am not defending disloyalty, and would not do so for a moment, whoever might be concerned. But I say that those who were interned on suspicion only should be given a chance to clear their characters.

Mr. BLUNDELL.—No one objects to that.

Mr. TUDOR.—Every member of this House has political and personal enemies, some of whom would be glad to see us interned. Many persons were interned because of the carrying of mere tales against them by persons who were either personal or political opponents.

Mr. HUGHES.—Where would I be if my enemies had their way with me?

Mr. TUDOR.—Perhaps the honorable member deserved internment as much as some of those who were interned.

Mr. HUGHES.—I know nothing about the reasons for the internment; all I did was to sanction the action that was taken.

Mr. TUDOR.—I came across only one man who was interned, and he was interned at his own request, because, having been dismissed from his employment, he could not get work, and his wife and children were starving. He would not loaf on his family. His boy had enlisted, and was wounded. Many with German

names were not accepted for military service, and enlisted under assumed names.

Mr. HUGHES.—I understand that the honourable member wishes for the liberation of certain men. Where are those to whom he refers?

Mr. TUDOR.—I shall read one or two letters that I have received from Germans, some of them naturalized in Australia. They have property in New Guinea.

Mr. BLAKELEY.—And at Nauru.

Mr. HUGHES.—All who were in the camp at Liverpool have been released on parole.

Mr. TUDOR.—In reply to a question that I put to the Assistant Minister for Defence (Sir Granville Ryrie) two or three weeks ago I was told that there were then thirty-two persons interned in Australia, and that most of them were to be sent out of the country. One of these men, Mr. A. Becker, who is interned in the Longworth Camp, on the 23rd December last addressed a letter to His Excellency the Governor-General, and forwarded a copy of it to the Secretary of the Federal Labour party. In this letter he stated—

I was a planter at Rabaul, German New Guinea. Was interned August, 1915. At that time I was in partnership with my brother-in-law in a plantation there. My brother-in-law died and left a wife and thirteen children. I am anxious to return there to look after the plantation and protect the widow and children.

I sent the letter with a covering note to the Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce) on the 1st instant. I have not yet received an answer, but understand that the reply is to be that no aliens are at present being permitted to return to this Territory. On the 8th instant Becker wrote to the Secretary of our party a letter in which he stated—

To-day a high official from Melbourne visited his camp and informed each of us individually that not one of us interned deportees from late German New Guinea would be allowed to return, as it was the policy of the Government, to his island home. I am thus for ever deported from my nearest relations, and ever deprived of seeing those dear to me again. I have done no wrong whatsoever. Have never been put to any trial as regards my deportation, and consider the action of the Government a most cruel and inhuman one. Please, Sir, bring my case before Parliament, and let the Government state the reasons for their cruel action. Besides me there are others who

have their children in that colony, and are deprived of even making arrangements for their support, or saying good-bye to them.

Here is another letter from a Mr. E. Gruendler, who is interned in the Holdsworth Camp, New South Wales. Writing on the 7th instant to the Secretary of the Federal Labour party he says—

I have worked in the Marshall Islands (late German New Guinea) since 1903, where I was married in 1906. In 1913 I was sent by the firm for which I was working to Nauru, from where I was deported to Australia, and interned in November, 1915. After the capture of Nauru by the Australian Military Forces I gave my oath of neutrality, and I have never broken my oath rendered. Nevertheless, I was brought down here without any legal proceedings whatsoever, nor any trial. My wife and four children, who are half-castes of Nauru, have since had to live as best they could, without any support whatsoever from the Government.

This morning a high official from the Defence Department, Melbourne, visited this camp and interviewed each one of the internees individually. I was told that I could not go back to my home at Nauru and join my family again, but that I could go to Germany, or to some neutral country. I am sure that my wife would object to be sent to Germany, as being born in the islands. I appeal to you and your party to see that justice will be done in my case, and that the cruel action of the Commonwealth Government will be stopped, and I am being allowed to return to my field of work and to my home and family. The only crime, if you will accept it as such, is that I am born in Germany.

If there is anything against these men I do not want to appeal, but I do not believe in a display of vindictiveness after the fight is over. Is it to be said, "This man has a German name; we will therefore 'collar' his possession in the island"? If that is so, then the people in my electorate might just as well say, "Wertheim is a German name. Wertheim has a large piano factory in Richmond. We will 'cop' it." That would be absolutely absurd. Wertheim had a son who joined the A.I.F. and fought overseas. To punish people merely because they were born in Germany would be to ignore the true spirit of Australia and Australians. We believe in fair treatment.

Gruendler tells us that he married a half-caste. There are many white men who have lived on these islands with coloured women and have not married them. I do not defend the marriage of whites with half-castes or blacks, but I would far sooner see a man marry a

coloured woman than get one of them into trouble and forsake her. That, unfortunately, has been done, to their everlasting discredit, even by people of our own race. If it be true, as stated by these men, that the policy of the Government is not to allow any of them to return to their island homes, I urge that the whole matter be reconsidered. The Australian-born children of German parents and naturalized citizens who have been interned should at least know what charge is made against them. They should know whether or not they have been interned merely because of suspicion. It may be that some enemy, either political, social, or personal, has made untrue statements concerning them, and I hope they will be given an opportunity to disprove these statements.

As to the proposed inquiry into the German Concentration Camps, if the whole of the men have been released, perhaps no good purpose would be served by an investigation.

Mr. HUGHES.—I spoke only of the Liverpool Camp. I do not know whether there are others.

Mr. TUDOR.—I believe that Liverpool is the only camp for internees.

Mr. HUGHES.—It is on the point of being closed.

Mr. TUDOR.—But are the Government deporting these men? If so, an injustice will be done. If we are afraid to allow two or three of these men to return to the islands where they were working when arrested, I can only say that we have not a very strong hold upon those islands. I ask for fair treatment for these men. Some two years ago Senator Gardiner asked permission to visit the German Concentration Camp, but was told that he could not converse with any one of the internees except in the presence of a military officer. I do not know whether the honorable senator raised the question in the Senate, but perhaps, since the war was still in progress, he allowed it to go. Some time ago about a dozen of us waited privately upon the Treasurer (Mr. Watt), who was then Acting Prime Minister, and who, later on, mentioned the interview in the House. We then practically asked him to do what we are asking to-day. Over eighteen months have elapsed since the armistice, and now that the Peace Treaty has been signed, we should see to it that no injustice is suffered by these men. The

fact that they were interned will be for all time a stigma against them and against their children, so that they ought fairly to be given an opportunity to clear themselves, if they can, of any charge that is made against them.

Mr. HUGHES (Bendigo—Prime Minister and Attorney-General) [11.25].—I regret that I have not at my disposal official information that would aid me to deal in detail with what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tudor) has said. In the circumstances, I can only approach the matter from a general stand-point. So far as I know, the Liverpool Concentration Camp is on the point of closing.

Mr. TUDOR.—Is that what is known as the Holdsworth Camp?

Mr. HUGHES.—Yes. Yesterday morning I approved of the closing of that camp, and the release on parole of the persons therein. If that be, as the honorable member and I both think, the only German Concentration Camp in Australia, we can therefore dismiss from our minds one of the points raised by him.

The honorable member has urged that Australians born of German parents, who have been interned upon suspicion, should have an opportunity to clear themselves, and that Germans with homes in some of the islands should have an opportunity to return thereto, and to take up their property again. As to the first point, I do not know whether it is now a live question.

Mr. TUDOR.—It is with many of them. They feel that a stigma is unjustly resting upon them.

Mr. HUGHES.—Very well; I quite agree with the honorable member that a charge of disloyalty is hard to repel. On the other hand, it is not less hard to sheet home. Let me take a case that will be quite familiar to honorable members—that of loyalty to a leader or to a party. If I am asked to say whether a man is loyal or disloyal to his party, and I say, "Well, I do not think he is loyal," I may be asked to point to an instance of his disloyalty. It may well happen that I cannot do that, yet be convinced of the fact. Everybody may know that a man is disloyal to his leader or to his party, yet cannot point to an instance by way of proof. It is as impalpable as Banquo's ghost. So much for that.

During this war racial feelings were naturally stirred to their very dregs. Speaking generally, men took sides. There can be no doubt that there were two sides to this question. There was the side of Australia, the Empire, and the Allies, and there was the other side. Some impartial persons might have been able to regard the position with indifference, and to show that a good case could be put up for the other side. But there were so few as to be negligible. To the overwhelming majority there was only one side. They, however, would not hear the other side, nor would the other side hear us. As those persons in our midst who saw only the other side were as dangerous to the body politic as leprosy, or some other foul disease, is to the body physical, it was necessary to segregate and intern them. And we had to take them on suspicion, just as a medical man has to commit to an institution any suspicious case. He says to a man, "You say you are healthy, but you have come off a steamer infected with small-pox. I do not know whether or not you have small-pox, but I shall quarantine you until the period of incubation is past, and then I shall know definitely." It was for precisely analogous reasons that we placed certain men in internment camps. No doubt we made mistakes; but not very many. And in any case, those interned could not complain of harsh treatment. I visited Holdsworth Camp, and I am bound to say that the Germans there were fed, housed, and treated better in every way than were the Australian soldiers. I was greeted most familiarly by men who had been working on the wharfs, and had been members of my old union for many years. They came forward, and said, "Hallo, Billy, how are you?"

Mr. MAHONY.—The Prime Minister knows why those men were there. They could not get work, and that is why they surrendered themselves for internment.

Mr. HUGHES.—The war is over, and I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that it shows a mean and narrow nature to continue a quarrel after the occasion for it has passed. I am not one to do that. While I fight, I fight for all I am worth, but when the fight is

over the quarrel is ended. I would be the last to deny justice to any citizen of this country because he happened to bear a foreign name, or because his father came from Germany. What have those things to do with his case, anyhow? I will consider this matter in a friendly and sympathetic spirit, and if it be said that any man has been denied justice—I speak not of the past, but of any man who wishes to clear his character, who says that he was accused of disloyalty, but that he never was disloyal—he should be given a chance to state his case.

I have been asked in this House many times about the Tanunda Club. I have given the answers that questions of that kind deserve. But when I read the evidence concerning Tanunda I thought I would like to go there with a Union Jack and an Australian flag as big as this chamber, to hoist them in the town, and make every one of the men there walk underneath them.

Mr. GABE.—They would do it, and salute the flags, too.

Mr. HUGHES.—The less the honorable member says about the Tanunda Club the better. Some of the men who were most bitter were not Germans at all.

Mr. MARR.—They were traitors.

Mr. HUGHES.—There are plenty of Germans in this country who, during the war, and under the most provoking and trying circumstances, were loyal. But there were some of our own race who were very far from being loyal. Therefore, when I speak of the Tanunda Club I speak not only of the Germans. It is perfectly true that the majority of those of German parentage felt for Germany, a sympathy that was quite natural. What could be more natural than that during a struggle between Germany and Great Britain those who have German blood in their veins should lean towards Germany? That was the most natural attitude in the world, and, the struggle being over, I say to them, "You did really what human nature and the promptings of your race impelled you to do." But I wish to make it perfectly clear that I do not admit for one moment that the action taken in regard to Tanunda Club and similar cases was not amply justified by

the circumstances. There were throughout the country absolute hotbeds of conspiracy and sedition, and they would have broken into open rebellion had the opportunity but presented itself.

I desire to say a few words about the German Islands in the Pacific. We have taken over those islands, and we must have a policy for their administration. That policy must be one which will insure the development of the islands by the British race, primarily by the Australians. I do not mean development by white labour, because that is out of the question. Besides, we have no earthly right to say to the Papuans and other islanders that they must stand aside and must not work in their own country. Such an attitude would be nothing short of impudence. But German settlement has gone to considerable lengths in those islands, and German influence is still dominant. We shall never be able to control the trade and develop these islands unless we substitute Australian or British for German control and ownership of the land. Acting on that policy, we have not encouraged the German settlers of the islands, who were interned and brought to Australia, to return. Broadly speaking, our policy is to substitute British or Australian ownership for German ownership. No injustice will be done to the individuals; everything will be done according to the terms of the Peace Treaty. But, speaking generally, we should have fought in vain the battles for those islands if we proposed to leave the effective control of them—for those who own the lands own the country—in the hands of the very nation from whom we wrested them after a desperate and bloody struggle. We do not propose to do that. Many of the soldiers of Australia are desirous of settling in the islands; and, after all, although no one has yet raised his voice in their behalf, there is an Australian soldiers' side to this German question, and it must not be forgotten. I do not believe that the Australian soldier wishes to be vindictive towards the German. But he very properly says, "I have fought a desperate and dreadful fight. You promised to give me a chance in life after the war was over. These islands are necessary for the defence of Aus-

tralia. With whom do you propose to garrison them—with Germans or with Australians?" That is the point. And common sense suggests the answer, "We shall garrison them with those upon whom we can rely when the hour of danger comes."

Mr. SPEAKER.—Order! The honorable member's time has expired.

Mr. HUGHES.—I can only add that I shall see that the men whose cases have been referred to get a fair deal.

Mr. WIENHOLT (Moreton) [11.40]—The motion of the Leader of the Opposition may be divided into three parts, and I shall deal with them in their order of importance. So far as the internment camps are concerned, I cannot support the Leader of the Opposition, because I was a prisoner of the Germans for six months, and I know that the conditions of the Germans interned in Australia were much superior to the conditions of the British and Australian prisoners who were in German hands. Nobody who was interned in Australia has any real cause for complaint, and I do not believe that complaint regarding their conditions is made by them. I have said to the internees, "It is all very well to say you have been unjustly interned, but when a country is at war it cannot take any chances. You may not be guilty of disloyalty, but, as a policy of precaution, if for no other reason, the Government are quite justified in interning you. And, although you have been interned, you have had the advantage of a feeling of security, and the knowledge that you will be able to sit down to your mess in the evening, or next morning, with some regularity. That is more than the men at the Front could feel." The Leader of the Opposition said that he was not particular about the latter portion of his motion referring to an inquiry.

Mr. TUDOR.—That is so. If the internments are practically finished, not much advantage can be gained by an inquiry.

Mr. WIENHOLT.—I agree with the honorable gentleman. I am not much concerned about the future of the Germans in the colonies of which we have taken possession. They were our enemies, and became ordinary prisoners of war. They had no reason whatever to com-

plain of being interned. Indeed, I have heard recently from friends that the whole of the original settlers of German East Africa have been sent back to Germany. I agree with the argument advanced by the Prime Minister in regard to the Pacific Islands. According to how we use them, they will be a source of either weakness or strength from a defence point of view. I am not one to advocate the vindictive treatment of these people. They ought to be given the full value of their plantations, and with their families be treated reasonably and courteously; but I believe that it would be better, even for these people themselves, to adopt the Prime Minister's policy of settling the islands with Australians and other Britishers.

Now we come to the treatment of our native-born and naturalized subjects, and this is a different question altogether. In regard to these, I entirely agree with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tudor), and intend to support the motion, if only for that part of it alone. The Prime Minister said that disloyalty, or feelings of disloyalty, were to a great extent stirred up amongst those who had been guilty of it—and I agree this may have been so—by some who were not Germans. It is not a question of giving these people—our naturalized or native fellow-Australians—a chance to clear themselves, but of affording them an opportunity to have something proved against them. The British Constitution rests on the principle that no man shall be tried or convicted unheard; and if we depart from that principle in these particular instances we may do so in others. If we treat these men in any way differently from their fellow-Australians, we shall make their naturalization a "scrap of paper," and nothing more. I am not here to defend any man who has done anything disloyal. A man who in war time does anything to prejudice the men at the Front ought to be placed in front of a firing party—I advocate no mercy to him—but no man should be punished or penalized unheard.

I have on a previous occasion referred to what I regard as the injustice of taking away the franchise from our fellow-Australians. Many of the sons of these men went to the war, and all too many

did not return. I intend to support the latter part of the motion; and I also intend, as far as it is possible for one member to do so, to fight the cause of these native-born and fellow-citizens.

Mr. GABB (Angas) [11.48].—It affords me great pleasure to find the Leader of the Labour party (Mr. Tudor) bringing this question before the House. The Labour party, in the past, has stood for humanity and justice, and we find it today maintaining the same attitude. I shall address my remarks principally to the request for a Royal Commission, or a Select Committee, to give Australian-born Germans an opportunity to clear themselves from the charges of disloyalty. I should have liked to deal with the internment camps, and the treatment meted out to the internees, but that is not possible within the limited time at my disposal. Another reason which causes me to leave that portion of the subject untouched is that the War Precautions Act still operates, and I should be rather timid in using some of the information I have received from interned men in case it might be used against them. I shall confine myself, therefore, to the request that these Australian-born subjects have a chance for justice.

In South Australia recently, Mr. T. Hewitson, S.M., was appointed a Royal Commission to inquire and report on allegations publicly made in support of accusations of disloyalty against Germans at Loxton, and he has presented his report to His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir George Murray. It is on the findings of this magistrate that I make my appeal; I do not rely on my own conclusions, but on what this gentleman, with his trained mind, after sifting the evidence, has given as his verdict. In the course of his report he says—

In view of the state of the public mind, particularly as it must have been in the Loxton British community, after the alleged German military display, and later when the first news of German frightfulness had sent a thrill of loathing of German militarism through the Empire, it was not surprising to find that ambiguous or equivocal or even *prima facie* innocent German doings and utterances had, for many persons, only one significance. As appeared in evidence, there was a strong suspicion of the Germans, and that suspicion had to be taken into account in assessing the true value of the judgments and impressions of the British concerning the attitude and conduct of

German neighbours, individually and collectively.

The magistrate admits, what we all know, that under the influence of the lashings of the press, particularly, it was possible that people were suspicious of anything that had a German name or flavour, and, therefore, persons from the beginning were suspected and watched. The point I wish to impress on honorable members is that I am not making an appeal for aliens, because those to whom I am referring are as much Australian as any one here. Their ancestors may have come from another country, but some of them are of the second and third generations. I wish to bring under the notice of the House the case of two men who are Australian-born, and residents of Loxton. The honorable member for Wakefield (Mr. Richard Foster) said that one of these men, Mr. Drabsch, was the "pick of the bunch," but I know others in South Australia—and the honorable member ought to know them, too—who are just as good as the man referred to. I am rather surprised that the honorable member, who comes from a district where there are probably men similarly situated, should express such an opinion. The report of the magistrate goes on—

The first Loxton Recruiting Committee, comprising Mr. A. W. R. Drabsch (chairman), Mr. H. T. Eime (secretary), Major Esselbach, and Mr. K. Wallace, were in office when Sergeant Kempster, in the capacity of recruiting officer, arrived at Loxton in February, 1916.

I desire military members of this House to take notice of this part of the report, because it contains the magistrate's comment on one of the military men concerned—

The sergeant, in effect, accused the committee of purposely hampering him, or neglecting to assist him, by refusing to supply him with a conveyance to take him round the district. "I here remark of Sergeant Kempster," says the Commissioner, "and the comment which follows applies to all the incidents in which he is concerned, that his wounds are a voucher for the gallant discharge of his obligations to the Empire during two visits to the Front. He appears to have been zealously anxious to succeed, but the matter and manner of his testimony conveyed the impression that either by temperament or by reason of his experiences at the Front he was inclined to prejudge and mis-judge any committee constituted as this was."

The magistrate points out that, because this Recruiting Committee was so con-

stituted, this officer was inclined to pre-judge and mis-judge the members on that account—

"His statements were (unavoidably, perhaps) vague and general. Some were exaggerated, some contradictory, and one, at least, obviously unreliable, as where he stated as a fact within his knowledge that which in the nature of things could be only hearsay or surmise. Either his memory was sadly at fault, or he was prepared to make out his case without regard to the truth. I find that the evidence does not support the sergeant's imputations."

Mr. Drabsch and Mr. Eime, who were chairman and secretary respectively of the Committee, were put in the internment camp, and kept there. Thank goodness, in their case they had a chance, by means of this Royal Commission, of clearing themselves somewhat. There are many others, however, in South Australia—I should say there are, at any rate, twenty Australian-born, not to mention naturalized, men—who ought to be accorded an equal opportunity.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—Can you give me the date when these two men were interned?

Mr. GABB.—I cannot give the honorable gentleman the year. My point is that there are others, who, if they had the opportunity, would no doubt be able to clear themselves. One man of whom I know intended to go into business after he came out of the internment camp, and secured a place in a certain town in South Australia; but, no doubt, because of his internment, pressure was brought to bear, and he was unable to keep the premises. There is no doubt that unless these men have an opportunity to disprove the charges against them, they will be penalized if they attempt to enter into business operations. In my own district there are, I think, three men who are amongst the leading business men of the towns in which they reside, and they are placed in a very unfair position by reason of the imputations resting on them. I had intended to show the work which Mr. Drabsch did on different patriotic committees, and so forth, and to emphasize the fact that he had a son at the Front; but time will not permit of this.

It is to be noted that the Royal Commission could deal only with the cases at Loxton, and then not as fully as they should have been dealt with. This was due to the fact that the military had the

right to withhold the necessary documents. The report of the magistrate goes on to say—

It was not within either the duty or the authority of the Commissioner to review the actions of the Department of Defence in relation to interments. In that respect the powers invoked by that Department were contained in the Aliens Instruction Order, No. 2, 1915. Alien enemies might be interned for carrying arms; for failing without good cause to report under instruction 20, which provided for periodical reports; for refusing to sign parole; and on reasonable suspicion of disaffection, or whose freedom was or might become prejudicial to the Allies' cause. The last ground extended to naturalized and other persons.

I do not object to that, in so far as it applied to aliens, because such action was absolutely necessary, but the last ground mentioned extended to "naturalized and other persons," in whose cases suspicion was enough to bring about internment. Even if it is granted that such "suspicion" may be necessary in war-time, it is not necessary to-day; and where is the harm of giving these men a chance to clear themselves? The report proceeds—

Clearly no inference of actual disaffection or disloyalty was to be drawn from the mere fact of internment—

That is a little solace to those who were interned—

and both the scope of the Commission and the restrictions imposed on grounds of public policy by the rules of the Defence Department barred investigation of each particular case.

Every fair-minded man on either side of the House would, I think, like something done to give our fellow Australians a "fair go." I should like to make some reference to Tanunda, as the Prime Minister has attacked it, because I have moved freely amongst the people there. I have known them to be loyal citizens; and if the Prime Minister were to do so as he suggests, namely, to hoist the Union Jack in the midst of the town, he would be able to get nearly every man in Tanunda—if not every individual—to walk past and salute the flag. The Prime Minister argues that the German blood is in their veins, and that, necessarily therefore, their leanings must be towards Germany. He loses sight of the fact, apparently, that their fathers or grandparents came out here because of the treatment which they suffered in Germany. Is it not only natural, but

inevitable, that those forefathers should have instilled into the minds of their Australian-born descendants a hatred of the German system which drove them out of the Fatherland; and that, instead of those children being pro-German, their feelings should be entirely in the opposite direction? The hall-mark of a small-minded man is fanaticism. I have no doubt that among the members of the Ministry there are men big and broad-minded enough to treat all their fellow-citizens in a decent manner; but I am quite certain that the Prime Minister is not big-minded enough to give these German descendants a decent show. I warn the Prime Minister that if I cannot get more satisfaction in response to my straight and fair questions in regard to the Tanunda Club, I shall move the adjournment of the House one day, and see if justice cannot be done. The Prime Minister must either have a dirty case, or no case at all, otherwise he would properly endeavour to have my questions answered instead of continually sidetracking them. If the Government can refuse to answer or trickily dodge answers to questions, what is the use of honorable members placing them upon the notice-paper? I am not bringing forward this subject because I want, or like, to do so, but because injustice has been done, and I feel bound, therefore, to endeavour to counter it.

Mr. RODGERS (Wannon) [12.2].—I support the principle which has been very clearly enunciated by the honorable member for Moreton (Mr. Wienholt). It is to the effect that, in the spirit of the very best British traditions, we owe to all those of whom we are the guardians—whether they be native-born or naturalized—the right of fair trial before being adjudged guilty and punished. Whatever may have been drastically necessary in time of war, when empires were flying at each other's throats, does not apply to-day. Days of trial and stress were not the times for sickly or weak administration. There is another phase of the question, and it goes a long way beyond the points raised in this motion. It has to do with the future life of Australia. I trust that our statesmanship will be sufficiently broad and generous to realize that, if we are to people this country from the white

races of the earth, we must always remember that nothing so rankles in the minds of a community as a sense of injustice. We want no racial animosities in this country. I feel certain that this Parliament will say that if grave errors have been made during the war owing to the inevitable stress of those perilous days, opportunity should now be afforded, if possible, to redress our mistakes.

Mr. PROWSE (Swan) [12.5].—I believe that the objects of this motion could be satisfactorily met in the cases of those who were interned merely upon suspicion or because they bore German names. The Prime Minister has stressed that these people were interned at a time when our nation was at war, and when immediate, definite, and drastic steps had to be taken at a crucial stage in our history. I presume that the military authorities have in their possession the whole of the particulars concerning every internee. If there is nothing actually provable against them, beyond the fact that their names are German and that they were interned on suspicion, would it not now be far better, far more effective and economical, if the individuals in question were furnished with discharge certificates? These documents could be drafted to show that there was no charge brought against them, and no act of disloyalty proven. As for those against whom there was either the charge or a strong suggestion of disloyalty, I hold that they should be brought to trial, even now, and that only such persons should be tried; and, moreover, that if they should be found to have been openly disloyal they should be deported forthwith. There are quite a number of Australian-born who bear German names, as well as others, against whom the military authorities can bring no charge whatever. Surely they could be sent back into the community with a clean record! To have been interned should not, in itself, be regarded as a stigma. In the case of numbers of internees, the only thing that can have been held against them, either by the authorities or their fellow-citizens, is that they have German names. We cannot remove their names; neither can we blot out the fact that they were interned during the war. We are not ashamed, of course, that they were interned. But I wonder

whether the German or Austrian authorities are likely to be issuing certificates to interned Britons, to make known that there was nothing held against them. I doubt if our late enemies are likely to spend any money upon such a procedure. Nevertheless, if we had nothing against those whom we interned we should issue certificates so phrased that they might present them, whenever necessary, in order to clear themselves from any hint of disloyalty.

Dr. MALONEY (Melbourne) [12.8].—I am bound to agree with much the Prime Minister has said this morning, and with a great deal, also, of that which was uttered by the honorable member for Moreton (Mr. Wienholt). But the motion opens up a very big question. The war is over, but are we Australians showing any tendency towards proving as generous as the people of the Homeland? The individual who happens to have control of that Imperial Department which deals with all the Dominions is a born German, whose name is Lord Milner.

Mr. FLEMING.—I doubt if the honorable member is correct. Was he not largely educated in Germany, but of English parentage?

Dr. MALONEY.—Are not the facts rather that Lord Milner was born in England of German parents? I am confident that he is of pure German blood.

Mr. FLEMING.—I believe the honorable member is not correct in saying so.

Dr. MALONEY.—Perhaps the honorable member for Robertson will say that His Majesty the King has no German blood in his veins. Perhaps he will say that the words appearing upon the crest of the Prince of Wales, namely, “Ieh Dien,” are not German. If I ever make a misstatement, however, I will welcome its correction. We know full well that the man who was at the head of the British Navy at the outbreak of war was a born Prussian, and that it was the intense feeling in England and Scotland, and largely in Ireland, too, I suppose, which compelled the powers that be to enforce his retirement. Does the honorable member for Robertson (Mr. Fleming) know that the Royal family itself has changed its German name, and that if Her late Majesty Queen Victoria had been an ordinary humble personage she would have been known as Mrs. Wettin?

But the Royal family changed its name; and all credit to it for having done so. I, certainly, am not prepared to say that the people of the British Isles were wrong in feeling that if Battenberg had remained at the head of the British Navy our ships ere now would have been under the North Sea. I belonged to the Turn Verein in this city—and am proud to say so—for close upon forty years. During the whole of that time I had dear friends among the German community in Melbourne. Thirty of them offered their services in the ranks of the Australian Imperial Force; and some there are from among them who will never come back. My Democracy was first learned within the walls of the Turn Verein, from those old rebels who were compelled to fly from Germany in 1848. And when that old veteran, Techo, desired—away back in 1888—to revisit Germany in order that he might look once more upon the spot where he was born, and then return to die in the country which had been so kind to him, that brute-beast, Bismarck, would not permit him to enter the Fatherland, even though an amnesty had been proclaimed in the early fifties. This veteran and his old mate stood at the frontiers of Germany, and in their anger they spat upon the German territory on which Bismarek would not allow them to tread again. When the Turn Verein was closed during the war the Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce) justly said that there was nothing against that institution, but that he thought it would be better to close it. For such physique as now stands me in good stead I have to thank the Turn Verein gymnasium. The Government have been seeking to buy the property, for official purposes, at very much less than its value. I personally offered the Government £10,000. The money was not mine, but my name was linked with that of a gentleman who was prepared to furnish the capital. However, that has been turned down, and I am glad that the City of Melbourne Swimming Club is now making negotiations. I sincerely hope these will be successful.

Mr. JOWETT.—I hope that institution will be opened this winter.

Mr. MALONEY.—I, too, trust so, and that the free teaching of physical culture will be undertaken as is desired. The

Turn Verein was a workmen's club. When on one occasion I visited the "swell" German club, situated in a lane off Collins-street, I quickly saw that it was there that the Germans in our midst were carrying on the old Prussian ideals. Its members held that no one was respectable unless he was, at the very least, a lieutenant. One of them said to me, "Will you permit us to have the honour of putting you up for membership?" I said, "No; I belong to the Turn Verein." "But," he expostulated, "that is a common workmen's club." I will not repeat the answer which I tendered, but will merely indicate that it was so hot that the individual concerned never spoke to me again. I preferred to be associated with the workmen's club. Of those who were members of that aristocratic Prussian institution I have no hesitation in saying that the majority were enemies in our midst. I have lost two beloved German friends in this war, and one who ended his life most unhappily in Sydney as the outcome of a trouble of which I had been unaware. Now that the war is over we have nothing against the naturalized or Australian-born Germans, and it is our right and duty to restore to them the freedom of this land. I have sought for information in many directions, but I have not heard of a single instance in which the German nation, with all its faults, has not played the game towards the naturalized Germans of British birth, but, of course, I know that there are very few Englishmen who have become naturalized Germans. A little while ago students at the Melbourne University, who took the course of modern languages, were compelled to pass in German and French. There may have been an alteration, but if not, the State Government, which endows the University, should insist on the students being given the choice of one of the languages of our allied nations, or perhaps the language of a neutral country.

I am quite in keeping with the declaration that Nauru must be defended by people of our own race. I firmly believe that a majority of native-born Australians of German blood are loyal to this country just as the native-born Americans of German blood expressed their fealty and loyalty to the flag of the United States of

America in the greatest procession of men of German blood that ever marched through the streets of an American city. I cannot say that I have had Prussians as friends, but many members of the Turn Verein, who were born in Schleswig-Holstein, Wurtemberg, and South Germany, I count among my friends. Even they were not too fond of the Prussians. Being of German blood, they had the right to be admitted as members of the club, but the other members were not too fond of them. As for their children, I have always said that the land they live in will encompass them, and in spite of nationality will ultimately gain them. On one occasion at a function of the Turn Verein, at which the German Consul presided, I was asked by some of my friends if I would say a few words. At first I declined, saying that I knew their German system better than they did themselves, but they assured me that they intended to carry their programme right through to the drinking of the health of the Consul. They did so. Then a little revolution broke out. They would not permit the Consul to leave the chair until the Dutch Consul and I had spoken. I took the opportunity of telling them that I did not blame them for loving their Germany, but that I stood for a higher thing, namely, that it was the duty of every man to give his loyalty to that country which was most kind to him, and that once he had sworn fealty to that country, it deprived him of whatever sentiment he might attach to the country which chanced to give him birth. I told them that I, as an Australian, loving Australia, claimed their children, and their children's children, and I pointed out that ultimately Australia would hold them. After the function my old friend, eighty or ninety years of age, came to me and asked me what had put the idea into my head. He said that he had had the greatest difficulty in making his children talk German, and had failed to get his grandchildren to do so. I told him that they were now good Australians, and would soon forget Germany. It is only a matter of a generation or two, a small period in the life of a State. Therefore, let us be generous in our treatment of these people. Let us give them the benefit of the doubt. If there is no proof that they

Dr. Maloney.

have been disloyal, let them go free, and let us judge them by their future behaviour. But let us send away those who have been disloyal, those who have proved to be traitors to this country. There is, however, one difficulty. Native-born Australians married to Germans may be desirous of going to America.

Mr. FLEMING.—The honorable member was quite right about Lord Milner. He was born in Germany, but of English parentage.

Dr. MALONEY.—I know that the honorable members wishes to put that matter straight, and if I have made an error, I am prepared to apologize. The American Consul will not visé passports of those which bear alien names. America may be right in adopting such a policy, because they have a much bigger German question than we have here, but at the same time it may be carried too far. However, the fact should be made widely known, so that those people who are anxious to go to America will not be applying for what they will be refused. It would save a lot of heartburning if it were made perfectly plain that the United States of America Government do not desire that any one of German blood or name should go to America, because many persons have already sold their businesses and secured their passports, and there is every probability that when they are prepared to leave Australia they will be blocked by the United States of America consul.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE (North Sydney—Assistant Minister for Defence) [12.23]—I am not one who believes in harboring a vindictive spirit towards Germans or those of German parentage, but we ought to look at this question broadly, because there is every reason why we should have some feeling in the matter when we recollect that 56,000 of our men died in the great war. It has been proved up to the hilt that Germany was the cause of that war, and entered into it most unwarrantably.

Mr. CONSIDINE.—International capital was the cause of the war.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—Australia entered the war because Great Britain upheld her promise to the little nation of Belgium to preserve her neutrality, and because Germany was

prepared to tear up her little seraps of paper, etcetera. We all know the cause of the war. What crime had Belgium committed? The crime of depending on the word of a Prussian king, and for doing so her country was overrun, her fields were trodden under, her cities were ruined, her art treasures were destroyed, and her womenfolk were violated. We went into the war for these reasons, and came out of the bloody struggle with the loss of 56,000 of the flower of Australia's manhood, and it is only reasonable that we should bear some malice and vindictiveness towards that nation which caused this loss.

Mr. GABB.—The Minister differentiates between Australians of German origin and those of German birth.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—I do. The man of German parentage living in Australia who has proved himself a loyal citizen should possess all the privileges of an Australian citizen. I bear no malice to Australians of German parentage, unless they have been proved to have been guilty of some disloyal act, but where such proof is forthcoming they are deserving of internment.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—Will the Minister give them a chance of disproving the charge of disloyalty?

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—I am prepared to give them every chance of doing so. There were fifty-eight persons interned in the Holdsworth Camp who were Australian born of German parentage, or were naturalized German subjects, and of this number forty were interned during the régime of the Labour Government, of which the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tudor) was a member.

Mr. TUDOR.—No native-born Australian was interned in Holdsworth Camp unless Cabinet gave its assent. While I was a member of the Cabinet there were only four or five of such cases.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—The information supplied to me is to the effect that, of the fifty-eight persons interned, forty were interned prior to the 14th November, 1916.

Mr. TUDOR.—I left the Government in September, 1916, and cannot be blamed for anything that happened after that date. I have stated the facts as I remember them. There were only four or

five native-born Australians whose cases came before the Cabinet of which I was a member.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—No doubt the matter can be clearly proved. The rule was that each case of internment of an Australian citizen had to come before Cabinet.

Mr. TUDOR.—Not if it was a case of a naturalized German subject.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—The point is that a good many of the cases complained of were dealt with by the Cabinet of which the honorable member was a member.

Mr. TUDOR.—At that time we had to intern men on suspicion, but now they have the right to clear themselves of that suspicion. Anything I did then I would do again. I do not claim that those who used disloyal utterances should be allowed to go free.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—The honorable member for Angas (Mr. Gabb) referred to the case of a man named Drabsch. He was interned on the 1st July, 1916, when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tudor) was a member of the Government that was in power, and responsible for these internments. It is that Government, and not the present Government, that is responsible for them. Therefore, the remarks which have been made by honorable members opposite have been directed against the actions of their leader, not against something done by this Government.

Mr. GABB.—The head of the Government that interned these men is also the head of the present Government.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—I am absolutely certain that no nation in the world would have treated its enemy subjects in the liberal, kind-hearted way in which the Australian Government treated those whom it interned.

Mr. CONSIDINE.—We want an investigation into the treatment that was given to them.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—You can have all the investigations into that matter that you wish. But let me quote some statements about the condition of the internment camp at Holdsworth made by an absolutely impartial person, the Acting Consul for Switzerland, who at the time

was in charge of German interests in Australia. I shall not read the whole report, but this is what he said about the state of the kitchens and the food—

Having arrived at the main compound shortly before midday, the three kitchens were at once inspected, and found to be in a condition of the utmost cleanliness. I was present when the midday meal was served to the internees, who, in reply to my inquiry, stated that everything was served that day as usual. Quite a number of internees were questioned, and none but minor complaints were made, mostly irrelevant to my inquiry. The food was clean and wholesome, consisting—in two of the kitchens—of fried meat-balls and potatoes, and fresh meat, soup, and tea, and Irish stew in the third kitchen. The food gave general satisfaction, within the scale of rations, to the great majority of those I questioned.

As a light upon the sanitary condition of the camp, I direct attention to this statement—

The percentage of sickness was admitted to be very small. . . . During the period of the last six months, only eight deaths took place out of 5,190 internees. The internees looked to be in a healthy condition.

The death rate among the internees at Holdsworth Camp was lower than in any other part of Australia. Let those facts be contrasted with the facts relating to the treatment of our prisoners in Germany, the reading of which makes one's blood boil. In my opinion, it would be most unwise to have an inquiry opening up all the matters dealt with in the motion. One of my reasons for saying this is that in many cases men were interned on the evidence of loyal Germans, and in some cases on that of their own relatives. Of course, such evidence is always to be viewed with some suspicion of ulterior motives, but every case was gone into thoroughly. Much of the evidence obtained by the authorities was given secretly, and in a matter of this kind evidence like that is not to be rejected. But if every case is opened up, and the names of all the informers made public, the lives of many who informed the authorities of the disloyal actions or words of friends and relatives would not be worth living, and some of them might be murdered. There are many other reasons for not stirring up these matters. It is said by some that the war is over and we should wipe the slate clean. But it is very hard for those who were at the war, and for those who lost

Sir Granville Ryrie.

relatives and friends there, and especially for the widows and orphans of soldiers, to say, "We will wipe the slate clean so far as the Germans are concerned, and forget everything." That might be the charitable thing to do, but it would be a hard thing to do. In my opinion, only harm would result from an inquiry by a Royal Commission, and I hope that honorable members will not press for it.

Dr. EARLE PAGE (Cowper) [12.36]—I support the proposition of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tudor), but for a reason which differs from those which have been advanced. I should like an investigation in order to make certain that those who have been released are absolutely loyal, and that fairness has been shown in releasing some men and deporting others. Those who are disloyal should be deported, but loyal men should be allowed to remain here. As to Australian-born persons, whatever their parentage, they are entitled to remain in this country, and they should have been allowed to vote on every national proposition that was put before the people during the war, because no one could be more an Australian than the man born here. There is a way of dealing with traitors in war-time.

Mr. McDONALD.—And at any other time.

Dr. EARLE PAGE.—Naturalized Germans, and men of German extraction who have been in the country for many years without taking out letters of naturalization, are in a different category, and should be allowed to remain in Australia only on it being conclusively proved that they have been loyal to us. I agree with the Prime Minister that, during the war, it was proper to intern these men on suspicion. He likened the action that had been taken in regard to aliens to that which is taken when contacts are quarantined along with persons suffering from an infectious disease. There are, however, persons who are known as carriers who, though recovered from a disease themselves, carry infection to others. There are those who were absolutely true to us during the war, and are so still, but persons who showed their disloyalty during the period when our national existence was at stake have no right to remain here, and should be deported. Yet there seems

to have been a certain amount of spontaneous manipulation in these cases. It has been stated that it was necessary to keep certain medical men in Australia, not because of their loyalty to this country but because of the professional work they are able to do, and the special skill they possess. That was said regarding two well-known German surgeons, one of whom was recently released. He was brought to Melbourne from Holdsworth, and was about to be put on a steamer for Japan, when, through some influence, he was set at liberty, and allowed to practise his profession again. Now, the glory of British surgery is its proficiency in that special branch of which this man is said to be the only skilled exponent in Australia. Sir Robert Jones stands unrivaled as the world's master of orthopaedic surgery, and there are dozens of men in Australia who, before the war, had more skill than this German surgeon, and scores now who, by reason of their experience with war casualties, excel him in skill. This man must have been disloyal or his loyalty must have been seriously suspected; otherwise he would not have been interned. At an extraordinary general meeting of the New South Wales branch of the British Medical Association, held in Sydney last week, it was resolved—

If there are in existence any legitimate grounds or special reasons, other than those suggested for the continued delay in the repatriation of Max Herz to his Fatherland, the British Medical Association, New South Wales branch, would be glad to be advised of them, so that he may not be the subject of unjust treatment should he ultimately succeed in avoiding repatriation.

That's a fair proposal. In justice to those amongst whom this man is going to live, and in justice to the man himself, the odds should be put on the table so that we may know how he stands.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY (Hume) [12.4.—As there remains only a little more than a quarter of an hour for the finishing of the debate, and some members opposite may desire to speak, I shall be as brief as possible. I notice, with some degree of satisfaction, the altered attitude of the Prime Minister towards the request for an inquiry. He says to-day that he has no serious objection to the request for an inquiry now made by those who were interned. I remember his at-

titude of some months ago, when I introduced to him a deputation of returned soldiers from a district in my division, who approached him in reference to certain persons whom they believed to have been wrongfully interned. These returned men, although they had fought for the liberties of this country, felt that they could not support an injustice, and wished to hear from the Prime Minister himself what were the charges levelled against the internees.

Mr. GABB.—All honour to them.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—There were three returned men on the deputation; but they also presented a petition signed by a number of other returned soldiers in the district, so that it will be seen that this was not a mere hole-and-corner affair. At the close of the interview, after the Prime Minister had emphatically refused to make known what the charges were, I said to him, "Am I to understand that these men will have to go down to their graves without having made known to them the charges alleged against them?" He replied that the nature of the charges could not be disclosed, and he held out no hope that they would ever be made known. That being so, I am somewhat pleased to find the right honorable gentleman taking up a different attitude to-day. At the same time, I am very suspicious that his promise of to-day will go the way of all others. I do not expect that much will come out of it; but will give the Prime Minister the benefit of any doubt in my mind, in the hope that something will be done.

I shall deal with this question in a general way, without mentioning the names of individuals. I have here a copy of a letter addressed to the Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce) by a New South Wales solicitor, who was intrusted with the cases of some of the internees. The reply that he received illustrates the way in which all these cases have been treated. At the head of his letter, this solicitor gave the names of several internees at Holdsworth Camp, for whom he was acting, and wrote—

As solicitor for and on behalf of the above internees, I have the honour to request that—

1. Detailed particulars and dates of the charges upon which they have been interned be supplied to them through me.

2. That an inquiry be held before any civil or military authority as to the truth or otherwise of such charges, and that they be thus afforded an opportunity of being heard, with counsel or attorney, in their own defence.

These internees are not alien enemies. My clients affirm their innocence, and claim to be loyal subjects of His Majesty the King. They most respectfully and earnestly ask that you will accord them the privilege and opportunity, as requested, of asserting and proving their innocence.

The writer of this letter, Mr. John Wilkinson, who, I need hardly say, is an Australian born, with no enemy blood in his veins, appends the following certificate to a copy of this letter which I have received—

I certify the above to be true extracts from my letter to the Honorable the Minister for Defence of the 8th April, 1918, and that my application for details of the charges and the granting of an open trial was absolutely refused.

Senator Pearce's reply to Mr. Wilkinson's letter was a lengthy one, and I will therefore summarize it. He stated that it would not be in the public interest to make known the charges, but that the men concerned might furnish the Department with particulars of any distinct act of loyalty on their part. In reply to that offer, one of the internees, who was a councillor, furnished through his solicitor to the Department a statement showing that, six months before his internment, he submitted to the shire council of which he was a member the most comprehensive scheme ever placed before a municipality for helping returned soldiers to settle on the land, and that he had invited the council to appeal to farmers in the district to make land available for the purpose. He offered 100 acres of his own land free of rent for the use of returned soldiers. It was suggested by him that others should do the same, and that machinery and teams should be supplied to help returned men so settled to harvest their crops. He also showed that he had taken part in recruiting.

Mr. BRENNAN.—All this was no good. What was wanted was lip-loyalty.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—He was not a lip-loyalist. Instead of "flapping the flag," he did practical work. This man gave distinct cases in which he had assisted in recruiting, and showed that he had given permission to his own son to go

to the Front. All this, however, was of no avail. The final answer was that he would have no opportunity to state his case, and that the charge made against him would not be made known. That is one example of the treatment meted out to these men. There are many others to which, if time permitted, I could refer. In one case an internee pointed out to the Defence Department, through his solicitor, that he had a son at the Front. We all know that there was a provision in the regulations that no man who had a son at the Front should be interned, even if he were of German origin. But it took this man a considerable time to have this simple fact made known to the Department. I have here a letter from the Minister for Defence, in which he states that it was not known that the man had a son at the Front, otherwise he would not have been interned. His release was immediately ordered. The fact that so much time elapsed before he could make it known to the Department that his son had gone to the Front shows the conspiracy that was going on.

Dr. EARLE PAGE.—It was just muddling.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—I think there was something more at the back of it all. I agree with the Leader of my party (Mr. Tudor) that throughout the war a spirit of vindictiveness was rampant. The Prime Minister admits that the war period was one of frenzy—that men were not able to view things in their true perspective, and there were undoubtedly unfortunate victims of this frenzy. In many cases internees were Australian-born of the second generation, and the way in which they were treated was cruel. I know some of these men to be quiet, inoffensive citizens. A returned man said on the occasion of the interview with the Prime Minister to which I referred, "One of these men is the most inoffensive man in our district. If you were to kick him on the shins he would not injure you." All that we ask is that there shall be extended to these men the right conceded to even the worst criminal in the country. Even a man who is taken in the act of committing a murder is not sent to the gallows without a trial. These men ask for an open inquiry. They desire that the charges against them shall be made known, and no man who believes in

British liberty will be prepared to deny them this.

I have tried to discuss this matter without any display of heat, but I desire to say to the honorable member for Moreton (Mr. Wienholt) that while I agree with his protest against the action of the Government in robbing some of our Australia-born citizens of their votes, he had an excellent opportunity, almost as soon as he entered this House, of showing, in the most emphatic way, his contempt for the Government. He had an opportunity to vote to remove them from office, but on that occasion he crossed over and voted against his own party to keep the Government where they are. I shall not occupy my full time, because I know that the honorable member for Dampier (Mr. Gregory) desires to speak in the few minutes remaining for the consideration of this question; but I shall expect the Prime Minister to honour his promise.

M. GREGORY (Dampier) [12.55].—I still have ample time to express my views. While the war was on many mistakes were doubtless made. It is quite possible that many persons were arrested on suspicion, or upon information given in confidence by different people. Such cases must occur in war time, and it would be absolutely wrong for the Government to grant an inquiry into the reasons which actuated the Minister in regard to many of the internments. I am satisfied that many persons must have been unjustly interned, but during a war such as that through which we have just passed some injuries are sure to occur. It is time, however, that we got back to the conditions that prevailed before the war. I am content to leave our civil rights or the civil rights of any of our people in the hands of the Defence Department. It is the duty of the Government, as soon as possible, to take from the Defence Department the control of all these matters, and put them under the control of either the Department of Home and Territories or the Attorney-General's Department. If any of these people at a time of grave crisis committed an offence against our country, they should have been punished before now.

Mr. POYNTON.—Can the honorable member point to any part of the world where, during the war, internees were given trial?

Mr. GREGORY.—I am merely pointing out that by this time those who have been interned ought to know exactly where they stand. It is idle to talk about the clemency that has been displayed. I brought before the Government the case of two Australian girls, the daughters of a respected resident of Fremantle, who had a son fighting at the Front. In pre-war days, when we were at peace with Germany, and the Germans were our friends, the girls married two naturalized Germans.

Mr. POYNTON.—Did I not fix up that case for the honorable member?

Mr. GREGORY.—The honorable gentleman helped us very considerably. The Australian Government ultimately gave a passport to one of these girls and her husband to go to Fiji; but, unfortunately, on arrival they were not allowed to land. They were hunted by a mob, their passport was taken from them, and they were even refused permission to return to Australia. Action was taken to enable them to come back here, and I understand the husband is being deported to Switzerland. A decided effort was made by the Defence Department to denaturalize many Germans who had secured naturalization papers. In one case a friend of my own, with a splendid record of twenty years as a naturalized British subject, was interned. It may be that he was properly interned, but he and all others who have been dealt with in this way should know the charges made against them. If there is any charge against them it should be dealt with immediately. If there is not, then they should be no longer left with the suspicion hanging over their heads. It is time that the Government determined to deal promptly with these matters. Where offences have been committed, I hope that punishment will be meted out.

Sir ROBERT BEST.—There must be public inquiry.

Mr. GREGORY.—We must have a public inquiry in regard to these cases, which have not yet been “finalized,” if further punishment is desired.

Debate interrupted under standing order 119.

Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.

NAVAL CADETSHIPS.

Mr. HIGGS asked the Minister for the Navy, *upon notice*—

1. Whether it is true that formerly cadetships in the Royal Australian Navy were allotted to each State of the Commonwealth in proportion to population?

2. Whether it is true that last year not one Queensland boy received a cadetship?

3. If so, what is the explanation?

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—The answers to the honorable member's questions are as follow:—

1. Yes. The system was abandoned in 1915, and since then the selection has been made on a Commonwealth basis, which insures that the best material shall be obtained, irrespective of State boundaries.

2 and 3. There were only four applications from Queensland in 1919, although particulars of the examination had been sent to all schools (public and private), and advertised in the press. Of the applicants, three failed educationally, and one was selected for appointment as a cadet midshipman.

WILLIS ISLANDS.

METEOROLOGICAL AND WIRELESS STATIONS.

Mr. HIGGS asked the Minister for Home and Territories, *upon notice*—

Whether, in view of the dangers and losses caused by want of knowledge of cyclone disturbances between Rockhampton and Cairns, the Minister will take the necessary steps to establish a meteorological station, together with wireless apparatus, on the Willis group of islands, about 275 miles from Townsville?

Mr. POYNTON.—This matter is being considered in connexion with the preparation of the Estimates for next financial year.

RAIN-STIMULATION EXPERIMENTS.

Mr. FENTON (for Dr. MALONEY) asked the Minister for Works and Railways, *upon notice*—

1. Is Mr. Balsillie in the Commonwealth Service?

2. If so, what salary does he receive?

3. Are the rain experiments made at the cost of the Commonwealth Government?

4. If so, what is the total cost to date?

Mr. GROOM.—The answers to the honorable member's questions are as follows:—

1 and 2. Mr. Balsillie is not an officer of the Commonwealth Service, and does not receive any remuneration in connexion with rain-stimulation experiments.

3 and 4. Yes, at Hopetoun and Riverina; the Commonwealth is paying the cost of the experiments, and the amounts expended at these two places total about £2,900. Prior to the stations at these two places being established, there were some preliminary experiments on the East-West railway.

ANZAC DAY.

EMPLOYEES AT COCKATOO AND GARDEN ISLANDS.

Mr. MARR asked the Prime Minister, *upon notice*—

1. Whether it is a fact that returned soldiers temporarily employed at Garden Island and Cockatoo Island, Sydney, did not receive payment for Anzac Day?

2. If such is the case, does the Minister consider this fair treatment of these men?

Mr. HUGHES.—I shall have inquiries made in the matter.

TANUNDA CLUB.

Mr. GABB asked the Prime Minister, *upon notice*—

Whether he will allow the honorable member for Angas an opportunity of perusing the whole of the papers in connexion with the closing of the Tanunda Club?

Mr. HUGHES.—No.

EXPORT OF STUD RAMS.

Mr. FLEMING (for Mr. HECTOR LAMOND) asked the Prime Minister, *upon notice*—

Whether steps will be taken to prevent the export from Australia of stud rams to countries which may become serious competitors in the wool market?

Mr. HUGHES.—Information is being obtained as to the extent to which stud rams have been exported, in order that the Government may be able to consider what, if any, steps need to be taken to protect the interests of Australia.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.

Motion (by Mr. HUGHES) agreed to—
That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday next, at 3 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES.

Messages from the Governor-General reported, transmitting Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure and Supplementary Estimates of Expenditure for Additions, New Works, Buildings, &c.,

the years ended the 30th June, 1918, and the 30th June, 1919, respectively. Ordered to be printed, and referred to Committee of Supply.

VALID AND OLD-AGE PENSIONS APPROPRIATION BILL.

Message recommending appropriation voted.

WAR PENSIONS APPROPRIATION BILL.

Message recommending appropriation voted.

PASSPORTS BILL.

Bill received from the Senate, and (on motion by Mr. POYNTON) read a first time.

IMMIGRATION BILL.

Bill received from the Senate, and (on motion by Mr. POYNTON) read a first time.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE CANTEENS FUNDS BILL.

Message received from the Senate, indicating that it had agreed to the amendment made by the House of Representatives.

PAPERS.

The following papers were presented:—
Annual Report on Papua, 1918-19.
Annual Report of the Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine, 1919.

Ordered to be printed.

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL.

Committee (Consideration of Senate message):

Motion 10—

Subject to this Act, the members of the Commission first appointed under this Act shall hold office for the term of five years, and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

See of Representatives' Amendment.—Leave out "five" and insert "three".

Senate's Message.—Amendment disagreed to.

MR. POYNTON (Grey—Assistant Minister) [2.25].—It is the intention of the Government to ask the House not to insist upon this amendment. The Senate objects to it for the same reasons as I urged when the amendment was moved,

namely, that the reduction of the period from five to three years would limit the scope of selection. Honorable members will recollect that I most reluctantly allowed the amendment to be made. The commissionerships will be very important positions, and in filling them we should have the widest possible selection in order that we may get the most capable men.

MR. JAMES PAGE.—Does not the same argument apply to members of Parliament, who are elected only for three years?

MR. POYNTON.—Not to the same extent. No three men in this House have the disposal of the same amount of money as will pass through the hands of the three Commissioners.

MR. JAMES PAGE.—We vote millions of pounds annually.

MR. POYNTON.—That responsibility is shared by the whole seventy-five members, but there will be only three Commissioners, and it would be a mistake to limit the field of selection by shortening the period of appointment. I therefore move—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

MR. TUDOR (Yarra) [2.28].—The Committee agreed to this amendment without a division.

MR. LAIRD SMITH.—Because the Minister said that the numbers were against him.

MR. TUDOR.—The Government accepted the amendment, and it was carried on the voices, but apparently when the numbers are against the Government in this House it is easy for them to get their representative in another place to move that the amendment be not accepted. That was done in connexion with this amendment. Evidently the Minister was not sincere when he accepted the amendment in this Chamber. Three years is a sufficiently long period for the appointment. Except for the administration of the war pensions, the work of the Repatriation Department is drawing to a close. The Minister for Repatriation (Senator Millen) has said on more than one occasion that the work of his Department is approaching its end. With the exception of about 14,000 or 15,000 men all of our soldiers have returned to Australia. Many of them are being given vocational training, sustenance

allowance, and assistance in other ways which must soon come to an end. It is estimated by those who are in the best position to know that two years will be sufficient for the vocational training of these men in various industries, because it does not mean a long apprenticeship as, for instance, to engineering. I do not say the men are more receptive at the ages at which they have arrived, but they are more likely to persevere than are boys who are just leaving school. Under the circumstances, I see no necessity for the appointment of the Commission for five years. The honorable member for East Sydney (Mr. West) suggests that if we reject the amendment it will mean a double dissolution, but that would not be possible under section 57 of the Constitution; at any rate, if the Government desired a double dissolution, they would select a more important question than this. The reason given for the inclusion of the Pensions Department under the Repatriation administration was that the arrangement in three years could be reviewed, and I believe that influenced the voting of honorable members on the point.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER (Wakefield) [2.32].—I agree with the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Tudor) in his objection to the proposal of the Government. I am more convinced than ever that our best interests can be served by limiting the period to three years. I am dead against building up any new Department. I have learned unofficially from soldiers outside that the idea is not that of the Government, but is urged by the returned soldiers, and the Government, therefore, cannot advance the contention that they themselves believe that it is essential to proper administration. If the information I have received is not correct, let the Government say so. I contend that what is intended is merely a buffer between the Government and those who are objecting to certain action in the administration. I can easily conceive that if the suggestion were submitted by the soldiers it would be acceptable from a Ministerial point of view, especially from the point of view of the Minister in charge of the Department. However, my objection is to the creation of new Departments that are not absolutely essential, and I have

heard nothing to convince me that the proposed change is in the interests of efficiency.

Mr. McWILLIAMS (Franklin) [2.35].—I move—

That the following words be added:—"but amended by inserting the word 'months' after the word 'three'".

The speech of the honorable member for Wakefield (Mr. Richard Foster) is entirely in accord with my views. The whole proposal before us is absolutely ridiculous, and had I been present when this Bill was considered in Committee I should have moved an amendment to express my view. The bulk of the pensions work is already completed, and if there is one satisfactory feature in connexion with the provision made for returned soldiers it is the manner in which that work has been done by the existing Department. The staff of that Department is fully organized to deal with old-age and invalid pensions, and experience has shown that it is thoroughly competent for the work in connexion with the soldiers. This work the Department has been doing quite satisfactorily for four years; and now, when about nine-tenths of it has been completed, it is proposed to create a new Department to do the "washing up." My object in moving the amendment is to have the work continued as in the past. There is not an honorable member—not even amongst the new members—who has not had these matters brought under his notice; and I challenge any one to say that as much satisfaction has not been found with the Pensions Department as with any branch of the Repatriation administration or of the military service. My desire is to test the feeling of the House as to whether a new Department should be created.

Mr. GROOM (Darling Downs—Minister for Works and Railways) [2.44].—I should like to remind the honorable member for Franklin (Mr. McWilliams) exactly where we stand in relation to the Bill. In the early stages of the measure the question arose as to what the character of the Commission should be. We constituted the Commission as a corporation; it was provided that the members should be appointed for a period of five years, at the expiration of which another

ly of men would be appointed, and so We discussed very fully whether the period of office should be five years or three years. The House decided there should be three Commissioners, but the point at issue now is whether their term of appointment shall be for three years or five years. We have to realize that, though a great amount of repatriation work has been done already, the Commissioners will be charged with the discharge of many functions for a long time to come.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—What are they?

Mr. GROOM.—The granting of assistance to the widows, children, and other dependants of deceased soldiers, providing medical attendance for all those soldiers whose illnesses may recur up to ten or fifteen years hence, and the care of soldiers who may be in consumptive hospitals, hostels, and other institutions.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—That means a new Department.

Mr. GROOM.—It does not; it means continuing the existing functions of the Repatriation Commission, and I feel sure the desire of honorable members is that the country should stand up to its obligations.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—Absolutely.

Mr. GROOM.—That being so, now is the time when we should lay down permanently the basis of our policy. The point at issue between the House of Representatives and the Senate is the term, but the honorable member for Franklin (Mr. McWilliams) now cuts clean across the issue. The point he refers to was raised by the honorable member for Hunter (Mr. Parker Moloney), and we had a test vote on it.

Mr. RYAN.—But that does not necessarily prevent it being raised again if it is in the Standing Orders.

Mr. GROOM.—No, but there ought to be finality.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—The Committee protested against the creation of another permanent Department.

Mr. GROOM.—The Committee must be judged by its actions.

Mr. HILL.—The Senate has brought all the trouble on you.

Mr. GROOM.—No; but the honorable member for Franklin now wants the Committee to go back upon its tracks. He sees the issue that the transfer of

certain functions will mean the creation of a new Department; but we have already incorporated the whole of the pensions clauses as part and parcel of the Bill.

Mr. RILEY.—A course which we protested against.

Mr. GROOM.—The Repatriation Commission therefore will be an administrative, not merely an advisory, body; and it is very desirable, to achieve the best results, that the tenure of the personnel should be secure, because experience gained over a longer term of years in dealing with complicated cases will enable the head of the Department to become practically a repository of information in connexion with the cases that may come before the Commission. A new Department will not be created. The magistrates who today are dealing with these matters will go over to the Repatriation Department, but of necessity the Deputy Commissioners will give way to the State Boards. For administrative reasons five years would be preferable to a term of three years, because the Commission will be dealing with large sums of money, and it is advisable that we should get the very best men available for the work. The Commissioners, when appointed, will be disqualified from carrying on any private calling. We want to secure the best men available, but if we accept a limitation of three years we shall, by so doing, limit our choice.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—Rather than that we should build up new Departments.

Mr. GROOM.—That point of view is based upon an entire misconception. What is intended is that there shall be merely a transfer of officers from one Department to another. Returned soldiers have had considerable experience in getting their varied wants attended to, and surely they are fairly competent judges of the advisability of concentrating all this work in one Department.

Mr. RYAN.—If the amendment of the honorable member for Franklin is carried, will the effect be to limit the appointment of the Commissioners absolutely to three months?

Mr. GROOM.—That is so. Of course, I recognise that the amendment is, in

effect, a test question, seeing that on the face of it the honorable member's suggestion is really impracticable.

Mr. McWILLIAMS. — I moved the amendment solely as a test question. If the words proposed by myself are added, I take it that the Government would drop this provision altogether.

Mr. GROOM. — It would have to drop the measure. The idea of the honorable member is to prevent the Repatriation Department from dealing with pensions at all. The issue between the Senate and this Chamber is another matter, and is confined to the tenure of the Commissioners in office. The amendment of the honorable member for Franklin would, in effect, re-open the whole Bill regarding an essential principle. I ask the Committee to reject the amendment, and to stand by the proposals of the Government.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER. — I desire to raise a point of order. The amendment of the honorable member for Franklin is to limit the tenure of office to three months. I ask for a ruling whether it is competent for this Committee to so materially alter its own previous decision. If the amendment is agreed to the Bill will be virtually destroyed. In those circumstances, is the amendment in order?

Mr. McWILLIAMS. — On the point of order —

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Atkinson). — I do not want to hear the honorable member. I am quite satisfied that, under standing order 202, the amendment is in order.

Mr. BELL (Darwin) [3.1]. — The Minister has explained that there is to be no duplication of Departments or creation of new Departments. To limit the appointment of Commissioners to three years, if the work of the Department were likely to be practically ended within that period, would be satisfactory; and, of course, the Commissioners, if necessary, could be re-appointed. The only objection raised by the Government to the term being made three years, rather than five, is that the shorter period would limit the choice. I think the Government will be able to make a selection from very many competent men, who would be willing to serve, even although the term might be three years. I have all along strongly

favoured the proposal that the Pensions Department should be brought within the control of the Repatriation Commission. My only regret is that the scope of the Commission is limited in that it will not control the matters of war service homes and soldiers' settlements. That is my sole objection to the Bill. I am surprised at the honorable member for Franklin having proposed his amendment. So far as I can recall, there was no hint on the part of honorable members of disapproval of the principles underlying the Bill when it was originally considered in this chamber. The object of the honorable member now, obviously, is to destroy the Bill. Of course, I do not intend to support him; neither do I favour the limitation of office to three years.

Mr. RYAN (West Sydney) [3.4]. — So far as I can recall the proceedings of this Committee, when honorable members were originally considering the Bill, opinion was divided on the question whether the Pensions Department should be placed under the control of the Commissioners or retained as at present. A decision was arrived at, and now the amendment of the honorable member for Franklin seeks to limit the tenure of the Commissioners, in respect of all purposes, to a period of three months. Their functions cover more than the administration of pensions, the question on which the Committee was tested before. The functions of the Commissioners are much wider, and the Minister has referred to some of them. I do not recollect the honorable member for Franklin (Mr. McWilliams) testing this question in the Committee previously.

Mr. McWILLIAMS. — I was not here.

Mr. RYAN. — The effect of carrying the amendment he has moved will be to condemn the appointment of Commissioners altogether. Is that what the honorable member wants? Does he desire to prevent the appointment of Commissioners altogether?

Mr. McWILLIAMS. — Yes; to leave it under the control of the existing Departments.

Mr. RYAN. — If that be so, the honorable member, by his amendment, is attacking a vital principle of the Bill.

Mr. GROOM. — Which the Committee has already affirmed.

Mr. RYAN.—It appears to me remarkable that no opportunity was taken in the Bill was previously under consideration in Committee, to move in the question in which this amendment goes. There is a clear issue as to whether the appointments should be for five years or three years. The Government previously adopted a proposal to make the term three years. Now, the Minister has given a reason why they should go back to that acceptance. I understand that the reason why the Government accepted the three years' term before was a very strong reason—the fact that the numbers were against them. I can understand the powerful persuasion of numbers in a question of this kind. Perhaps the Minister will inform me, by interjection, whether he feels that the numbers are with him on this occasion.

Mr. POYNTON.—We shall soon see.

Mr. RYAN.—Whatever the result of the voting on this amendment may be, I hope that we shall still have preserved to us the right to decide whether the term of office of the Commissioners shall be five years or three years.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Atkinson).—The question I put to the Committee was only the amendment moved by the honorable member for Franklin (Mr. McWilliams). The other matter may come up for consideration later.

Mr. RYAN.—The amendment is more far-reaching than that which was moved when the Bill was previously before us in Committee.

Mr. HIGGS.—If this amendment is carried, we shall have an opportunity to decide fully whether the term of office shall be five months or three months.

Mr. RYAN.—I quite understand that if this amendment is carried it will destroy the Bill. I wish it to be made clear that whatever the effect of the voting on the amendment may be, we shall still be in a position to divide on the question of whether the term shall be five years or three years.

Mr. HIGGS.—I do not think we shall if the amendment is carried.

Mr. FRANCIS (Henty) [3.8].—It is well known to honorable members that when the Bill was under consideration in

Committee before, I voted for an amendment providing that the Pensions Department should not be transferred to the control of the Repatriation Commission. I wish to be consistent; but, unused to the procedure of Parliament, I am somewhat confused as to the effect of the amendment now before the Committee. I believe that the administration of the Pensions Department should be left where it is, and the Repatriation Commission should be confined to the administration of matters connected solely with repatriation. Whether the word "months" is substituted for the word "years" or not, I cannot see that the result would be to in any way alter the provision with respect to the administration of the Pensions Department included in the Bill. If the amendment is intended to secure the abolition of the Repatriation Commission, that is quite a different matter.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—That is the object of the amendment.

Mr. FRANCIS.—Then the question of the transfer of the Pensions Department to the Repatriation Commission does not arise under the amendment, which is intended practically to prevent the appointment of the Commission.

Mr. RYAN.—The administration of the Pensions Department comes into the matter, as well as a number of other things.

Mr. FRANCIS.—I take it that if the Commission is not to be appointed, there will practically be no Repatriation Bill. I should like to be advised by some older parliamentarian present as to the effect of voting for the amendment.

Mr. POYNTON.—We could not have a Commission, the members of which had to be appointed every three months.

Mr. FRANCIS.—I wish to understand whether, in voting for the amendment, we shall be voting to prevent the transfer of the Pensions Department to the control of the Repatriation Commission, or to prevent the appointment of any Repatriation Commission at all. If the honorable member for Franklin will answer that question, I shall better know how to cast my vote.

Mr. MAXWELL.—The intention of the amendment is, without a doubt, to prevent the appointment of the Repatriation Commission.

Mr. FRANCIS.—And has nothing to do with the control of the Pensions Department?

Mr. STORY.—The honorable member for Franklin says the intention is to destroy the Repatriation Commission.

Mr. RILEY (South Sydney) [3.12]—When this Bill was under consideration in Committee on the last occasion, whilst I did not like the idea of transferring the Pensions Department to the Repatriation Commission, I knew that this measure provided for benefits which are not provided for under the existing Act. I am not disposed to vote for the amendment submitted by the Leader of the Corner party (Mr. McWilliams), when to do so may be to lose benefits which returned soldiers may derive under this Bill. I am prepared to vote for a term of three years, as against five years for the members of the Repatriation Commission; but I am not prepared to cast a vote which would deprive many soldiers of benefits under this Bill which are not provided for under the existing law. In this measure, provision is made for increased pensions, and it includes people excluded from benefits under the existing law. The Minister for Works and Railways (Mr. Groom) asks what will happen to the women and children; but they will be looked after. He says we have to keep up hospitals, but they would be kept up whether this Bill were passed or not. He asks, “What about the consumptive patients; how are they to be dealt with?” Are they not being dealt with now? Unless the Government have some better arguments than have been put up against the amendment so far, they have a very bad case. This House should be careful to retain control of the appointment of the Commissioners, and if we appoint them only for three years, we can re-appoint them if they prove worthy, and if their services are still further required. I contend that their work should be done in three years, and the various existing Departments should continue to carry on their work as they are doing now. If we create a new Department for five years, we are setting up a very expensive system at a time when expenditure ought to be curtailed. I hope that the Committee will have the opportunity of

taking a direct vote upon the question of whether the appointment of the Commissioners shall be for five years or three years, and I trust that honorable members will adhere to their previous decision to limit the period to three years.

Dr. EARLE PAGE (Cowper) [3.16].—When this question was dealt with previously, on the amendment of the honorable member for Wannon to limit the period of appointment to three years, the argument put forward was that the powers conferred upon the Repatriation Commissioners by the Bill were strictly limited in point of time, and there was no need for the appointment of Commissioners for a longer period than three years. Honorable members had to come to a determination upon the point without being able to give consideration to the powers proposed to be bestowed upon the Commissioners, because they were fixed by a later clause than that which fixed their term of appointment; and in this connexion Ministers contended that if the administration of pensions was not intrusted to the Commission, and if additional duties were not given to it, to a very large extent there would be no justification for its appointment. It was pointed out by an honorable member on the Ministerial side of the House that the existing Repatriation Department administration was capable of carrying to a completion the work already undertaken; and that unless additional powers were given to the Commissioners by incorporating in the Bill the proposal which the Committee will be discussing in a few moments, namely, the granting of assistance to co-operative companies of returned soldiers, there would be absolutely no reason for the formation of new machinery in connexion with the administration of repatriation matters. I have had considerable personal knowledge and experience of repatriation work in country districts, and I realize that, to a large extent, the Federal portion of this class of work has already been done. As I showed a fortnight ago, if the Commonwealth had retained control of the moneys handed over to the States in connexion with repatriation, and if the Repatriation Commission were clothed with authority to take part in the handling of that work, the Commis-

mers would be provided with occupation for a lifetime; but in the present circumstances there is no necessity whatever for the appointment of a new Commission with powers so limited as they have been by the Government.

Mr. HIGGS (Capricornia). [3.19].—The honorable member for Franklin (Mr. McWilliams) has up to the present made a most excellent showing as Leader of the Country party; but I hardly think he realizes that if his amendment is carried the work of repatriation will be held up for a considerable time, because no Government can afford to permit its Bill to be made ridiculous, as it would appear to be if the word which the honorable member wishes to have inserted in the Bill is placed there. If the Committee sticks on its original amendment, the Bill will read—

Subject to this Act, the members of the Commission first appointed under this Act shall hold office for the term of three years, and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

If the honorable member wishes the Bill to provide that the Commissioners are to be appointed for three months only,

Mr. MCWILLIAMS.—Yes; on the understanding that no Commission will be appointed.

Mr. HIGGS.—I think the Chairman, if he desired to be very strict, might, under the Standing Orders, declare that the amendment comes under the category of frivolous amendments, because, if the honorable member for Franklin seriously intends to wreck the Bill, he has moved a frivolous amendment.

Mr. MCWILLIAMS.—It would not wreck the Bill if the Commission were not appointed.

Mr. HIGGS.—The Minister declares that if the honorable member's amendment is carried it will wreck the Bill. No self-respecting Ministry could allow such an amendment to be carried. I am not particular whether the period of the appointment of the Commissioners is three years or five years. The point is not material enough to hold up the Bill. If the Minister says that he is willing to agree with the attitude of another place I am prepared to support him in fixing the period at five years.

Mr. FENTON (Maribyrnong). [3.22].—Surely it is competent for a Committee of this House to give instructions to the Government on occasions. We may be practically unanimous in regard to a certain course of procedure, and ought to be in a position to exercise our judgment in that direction. The object of the amendment is to give an instruction to the Ministry to avoid the creation of a new Department, which may make greater demands upon the public purse, and to draft the measure on lines that will enable the work of repatriation to be conducted as it has been in the past. From every quarter we have had the information that the task of the Administration in the matter of repatriation is, in most aspects, coming to an end; but that only seems to be an incentive to this "economy" Government to establish a new Department. I support the amendment, because I am opposed to the Government creating expensive machinery which is quite unnecessary.

Mr. LAIRD SMITH.—The honorable member wishes to wreck the Bill.

Mr. FENTON.—That is not so. If the amendment is accepted, it will simply be an instruction to the Government to bring in a Bill in accordance with the wishes of the Committee. All the benefits given by the Bill will remain, but they will be administered differently. Evidently the Government are too prone to spend public money, because they grasp at the opportunity given to them to do so by a Chamber that has no control of the public purse. We are the people who are responsible to our constituencies for the expenditure of public moneys, and we ought to guard the public purse jealously. The Government delight in ruthlessly scattering public money, and I hope the country will realize that when we provided that the Commissioners were to be appointed for a term of three years instead of five we were taking a step in the right direction.

Dr. MALONEY.—The Senate was counted out to-day.

Mr. FENTON.—I do not think that we should take much notice of the Senate.

Mr. POYNTON.—Let us take a division.

Mr. FENTON.—I am prepared to assist in that direction, but I must answer the extraordinary statement of the Minister, that by carrying the amendment we

will be depriving the soldiers of the benefits that would accrue to them. It is a most cruel and unfair statement, and is not in accordance with fact, because no Government would be prepared, even if the amendment were carried, to drop the Bill and thus deprive those who are to benefit. I shall vote for the amendment in the hope that it will be carried, because I believe the Repatriation Department will proceed smoothly under the old régime, and that it is altogether unnecessary to create another Department.

Mr. CONSIDINE (Barrier) [3.27].—I am glad to be able to take this opportunity of assisting the Government to carry out at least one of their pledges, if it means the establishment of a tribunal on which the soldiers will be represented. If the amendment is carried and the Commission dispensed with, I do not see how the Government can carry out their pledges. I therefore, with great pleasure, support the Government on this occasion.

Mr. MATHEWS (Melbourne Ports) [3.28].—The Government are submitting two amendments made in another place, and if this House agrees to delete the provision relating to co-operative concerns there is no need for the appointment of a Commission. If the amendment of the honorable member for Franklin (Mr. McWilliams) is carried, the Government have threatened to drop the Bill altogether, and carry out the pensions work by the present Department, and the other work by the Repatriation Department, by granting that body extended powers. I believe that such a proposal would meet with the approval of the majority of the members of this House if the whip is not cracked. I am surprised that the Government allowed their colleagues in another place to submit these two amendments to this House. One provides that the Commissioners shall be appointed for a term of five years, instead of three, but the Government know that by deleting the provision relating to co-operative concerns the work of the Commissioners will be so reduced that there will be no need to extend their term. The whole thing is a farce, and I am in favour of the work being carried on by the present Department with extended powers, if necessary.

Mr. WEST (East Sydney) [3.30].—The plausible speech of the Minister for

Works and Railways (Mr. Groom) was as devoid of argument as any speech ever delivered by a member of this Chamber, and that is saying a good deal. I fully believe that the amendment carried in another place would be accepted by the returned soldiers in this Chamber, who have formed a union, and who believe that the Government will have to meet their wishes if they are to have their support. I draw honorable members' attention, however, to the fact that sooner or later the Government will have to face the financial position, and any honorable member who disregards the seriousness of the situation is not fit to be a member of this House. As I have stated previously, this is an attempt to create a new Department, and its cost will exceed all expectations. If honorable members only realized the expenditure that is likely to be incurred they would not be so anxious to pass a measure of this character. Although the Bill as it left this Chamber provided that the Commissioners were to be appointed for three years, there is nothing in the measure to prevent them being re-appointed for a further period. I do not see why the taxpayers should be thus involved in further unnecessary expenditure. Our war debt has to be repaid, and it must not be regarded as a perpetual liability.

The CHAIRMAN.—Order! I am afraid the honorable gentleman is departing from the question before the Committee.

Mr. WEST.—I am merely drawing attention to the indebtedness of the Commonwealth, and the fact that the creation of new Departments involves us still further. I believe I am doing right in supporting the honorable member for Franklin, because the whole of the work proposed under this Bill can be carried out by existing Departments. I understand that twenty-one additional appointments will have to be made. As the returned soldier members of this Chamber have formed themselves into an organization, they are likely to stand by their friends in the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League some of whom will be interested in the new appointments. If the Bill is passed it will be a useful instrument in the hands of the Government, and will enable them to incur additional

unwarranted expenditure. There are, of course, necessary military expenditures; but unjustifiable expenditure remains for all time a burden on the taxpayers. To show my consistency I shall have to vote with the honorable member for Franklin. In public life one must always be consistent. Then he will be appreciated, even though he may make mistakes. But I appeal to young members not to think only of popularity. A great orator once said that when the multitude applauded him he felt that he had made a mistake. I hope that the Committee will not give way to the Senate in this matter.

Question—That the words “months” proposed to be inserted be so inserted (Mr. McWILLIAMS’ amendment)—put. The Committee divided.

Ayes ..	12
Noes ..	44
Majority ..	32

AYES.

Hill, W. C.	Page, Dr. Earle
Mahony, W. G.	Stewart, P. G.
Makin, N. J. O.	West, J. E.
Maloney, Dr.	
Mathews, J.	Tellers:
McDonald, C.	Fenton, J. E.
McWilliams, W. J.	Page, James

NOES.

Bayley, J. G.	Kerby, E. T. J.
Bell, G. J.	Lamond, Hector
Blakeley, A.	Lazzarini, H. P.
Blundell, R. P.	Lister, J. H.
Bowden, E. K.	Mackay, G. H.
Brennan, F.	Marks, W. M.
Bruce, S. M.	Marr, C. W. C.
Cameron, D. C.	Maxwell, G. A.
Considine, M. P.	Moloney, Parker
Cook, Sir Joseph	Poynton, A.
Cook, Robert	Prowse, J. H.
Corser, E. B. C.	Riley, E.
Cunningham, L. L.	Rodgers, A. S.
Fleming, W. M.	Ryan, T. J.
Foster, Richard	Ryrie, Sir Granville
Fowler, J. M.	Smith, Laird
Francis, F. H.	Tudor, F. G.
Gabb, J. M.	Wienholt, A.
Gregory, H.	Wise, G. H.
Groom, L. E.	
Higgs, W. G.	Tellers:
Hughes, W. M.	Burchell, R. J.
Jackson, D. S.	Story, W. H.

Question so resolved in the negative.
Amendment negatived.

Mr. RODGERS (Wannon) [3.46].—I propose, as the mover of the amendment, to stand by the three-years term. I must express my surprise that the Minis-

ter in charge of the Bill in another place has not taken the cue from the Minister in charge here, who so accurately sensed the feeling of the Committee at the time, that he did not test the matter by a division. I am sure that honorable members are strongly of the opinion that the House of Representatives is the guardian of the finances of this country. It is faced with the rejection of what amounts to a financial provision, or to a financial control regulation.

Mr. TUDOR.—Then it should not have originated in the Senate, if that is so.

Mr. RODGERS.—It is surprising to me that the general tact and wisdom of the Minister in another place did not lead him to see that this House will not surrender to another Chamber its rights so far as the control of the finances is concerned. Another place should be reminded that this Chamber is primarily responsible for the finances.

Motion—That the Committee does not insist on the amendment—negatived; amendment insisted on.

House of Representatives’ Amendment.—Insert the following new clause:—“47A. The Commission shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, have power to assist soldiers in establishing industries on a co-operative basis, such industries to include the manufacture of boots, woollen goods, and clothing, tanning, wool-scouring, felting, and other enterprises.”

Senate’s Message.—Amendment disagreed to.

Motion (by Mr. POYNTON) proposed—
That the amendment be not insisted on.

Mr. HIGGS (Capricornia) [3.50].—The amendment, as moved by the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill), contains the germ of a great idea, and I regret that the Senate has rejected it. I propose to move an amendment as an alternative to the clause as adopted here. There is no doubt that to lend money indiscriminately to any group of men who care to commence an industry, such as bootmaking, saw-milling, or any other co-operative enterprise of that kind, might land the Government in very serious financial loss.

Mr. RILEY.—Money is not to be lent indiscriminately.

Mr. HIGGS.—It is true that the clause contains the words “with the consent of

the Minister," but the Minister will be unable to cope with the many demands that will be made upon him by hundreds and thousands of men, for I am sure it would run into that number of men. If the Government announced that they would advance money to any group of citizens in Australia—not necessarily returned soldiers—who desired to enter into co-operative enterprises, without asking those citizens to put up any money whatever, a request would come in from every street in every town in Australia for the loan of money to go on with some enterprise.

Mr. RYAN.—What is the question before the Committee?

Mr. HIGGS.—The proposal of this Chamber for assistance to soldiers in establishing co-operative industries. I purpose to disagree with the Senate's rejection of the amendment, and to substitute an alternative one. Honorable members will agree that what is easily acquired is not very much thought of. Many years ago in Queensland the Government endeavoured to assist the unemployed, and to that end furnished them with funds to establish village settlements. No money was put up by the unemployed, but various groups received assistance from the Government. They went on to the land, and as soon as the money was done the co-operative societies burst up and became insolvent. It is true, as the honorable member for Kennedy (Mr. McDonald) reminds me, that in some cases these co-operative village settlers were given very bad land, but in one case they got very good land, at Lake Weyba, in the Gympie district. Their committee decided that some members of the group should fell timber, others plough, and others fish. They had a quarrel as to who should build, who should cut timber, and who should fish, and finally they were all on the lake fishing. Under my alternative proposal the clause would read—

The Commission shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, have power to assist soldiers by way of loan to the extent of one pound for one pound contributed by them in cash or war bonds for the purpose of establishing industries on a co-operative basis, such industries to include the manufacture of boots, woollen goods, clothing, tanning, wool-scouring, fellmongering and kindred industries, saw-milling, and other enterprises.

I shall also propose the framing of regulations to determine when these loans should be repayable.

Mr. CONSIDINE.—What is the essential difference between the honorable member's amendment and that moved by the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill)?

Mr. HIGGS.—The essential difference is that those who form themselves into groups for the purpose of conducting enterprises on co-operative lines under my proposal will have to furnish some guarantee that they believe in their enterprise.

Mr. HILL.—More than one-half of these men have not a penny, and do not know where to obtain money.

Mr. HIGGS.—If, for instance, ten returned soldiers, each holding a £100 war bond, joined together, they could go to the Commissioners and say, "We propose to buy a plant for the manufacture of boots, and we ask the Government to advance £1,000 by way of loan."

Mr. McDONALD.—How far would that go?

Mr. HIGGS.—Not very far, but for purposes of illustration we could multiply the number by 10. I ask leave to continue my remarks at a later date.

Leave granted; progress reported.

JOINT COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Debate resumed from 23rd April (*vide* page 1487), on motion by Mr. HUGHES—

That in accordance with the provisions of the Committee of Public Accounts Act, the following members be appointed members of the Joint Committee of Public Accounts, viz.:—Mr. Bayley, Mr. Fenton, Mr. Flemming, Mr. Fowler, Mr. Prowse, and Mr. West.

Sir JOSEPH COOK (Parramatta—Minister for the Navy) [3.58].—I understand that an arrangement has been made between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition for a further proposition, and I hope honorable members will consent to this motion without further debate. There is no reason why it should be delayed; we can leave the further question to be rectified later on.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT.

ORDER OF BUSINESS—DROUGHT IN WEST QUEENSLAND—SUPPLY OF PETROL FOR PUMPING ENGINES.

Motion (by Sir JOSEPH COOK) proposed—

That the House do now adjourn.

Mr. TUDOR (Yarra) [3.59].—I should be glad if the Minister in charge of the House would intimate what business is to be proceeded with on Tuesday next, and what Bills we shall be called upon to deal with during the week.

Mr. JAMES PAGE (Maranoa) [4.0].—I desire to bring under the notice of the Government a matter of the most serious importance to Queensland, and particularly to the residents of the western part of that State who are now suffering from a severe drought. Those who are hand-feeding and watering their herds and flocks in Western Queensland have experienced the further catastrophe of a shortage of petrol. They can obtain no petrol to keep going the oil engines used for pumping water, and their position is one of the direst peril. Could not the Government have the stocks of petrol in Brisbane, Rockhampton, and other centres, now being used chiefly for motor cars and “joy” rides, distributed amongst the people out West for industrial purposes only? When the sugar question was before us two or three weeks ago, no difficulty was experienced by the Minister for Trade and Customs (Mr. Greene) in obtaining statistics as to the supply of sugar throughout the length and breadth of Australia. It should, therefore, be an easy matter to obtain statistics as to the supplies of petrol in the Commonwealth. I ask the Government, in order to save these men “put back” practically from ruin to commandeer the petrol now in the big centres, and to distribute it for industrial purposes in Western Queensland.

Sir JOSEPH COOK (Parramatta—Minister for the Navy) [4.2].—Before disposing of the Repatriation Bill on Tuesday next, I understand that the House will be asked by the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) to agree to a motion conveying to our sailors and soldiers the thanks of the Parliament and people of the Commonwealth for the services they have rendered. After that, I understand the

Prime Minister proposes to proceed with the Anglo-Persian oil agreement and the Bureau of Science and Industry Bill. I have some financial matters that I also desire to dispose of.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—Will the Judiciary Bill be dealt with next week?

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—I should hardly think so, unless the honorable member for West Sydney (Mr. Ryan) will withdraw the amendment of which he has given notice. I have indicated enough business to start with, and I hope we shall come here on Tuesday in a mood to work, since we have not done very much this week.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

House adjourned at 4.3 p.m.

House of Representatives.

Tuesday, 4 May, 1920.

Mr. SPEAKER (Hon. W. Elliot Johnson) took the chair at 3 p.m., and read prayers.

OIL AGREEMENT BILL.

Bill presented by Mr. HUGHES, and read a first time.

ARBITRATION COURT.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—I ask the Prime Minister if it is true that there are forty-two cases now before the Arbitration Court, and, if so, what steps are being taken to enable those concerned to have them heard.

Mr. HUGHES.—I am not aware.

PARLIAMENTARY ATTENDANTS.

Mr. MAKIN.—I wish to know, Mr. Speaker, when we can expect finality in regard to the investigation that you and Mr. President, are making into the conditions of employment of the messengers and others connected with this building. When are you likely to finally determine the rates of wages and conditions which shall apply to them in the future?

Mr. SPEAKER.—Under the Public Service Act, the matters referred to are left to the determination of Mr. President and Mr. Speaker, and, as I have already intimated, in answer to a question asked

by another honorable member, they have been considered, and certain re-adjustments will be provided for in the Estimates for the forthcoming financial year, which are now in course of preparation.

THE WAR.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICES.

Motion (by Mr. HUGHES, *by leave*) proposed—

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the officers, warrant officers, petty officers, and men of the Royal Australian Navy for their heroic services during four years of war in the guardianship of Australia and her commerce from the attacks of a lawless foe, for their unceasing vigilance in the patrol of many seas, for their courage and skill in safely convoying their soldier comrades to the main theatres of operations, and for their efficient co-operation with the Grand Fleet of the Empire.

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Australian Imperial Force for their unrivalled courage and efficiency, their cheerful endurance of unexampled hardships, and their magnificent achievements throughout four years of strenuous effort, with their comrades of the other portions of the British Empire, in upholding the cause of human liberty.

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Australian Air Force for their brilliant, daring, and conspicuous services over sea and land.

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the members of the Australian Army Medical Corps for the skilful discharge of their humane office, and for the unprecedented success which attended their unremitting labours to preserve the armed Forces of Australia from the ravages of disease.

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the women of the medical and other auxiliary services for their devotion in tending the sick and wounded and for other duties faithfully and bravely discharged.

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the fathers, mothers, wives, and sisters of Australia's sailors and soldiers, for their devotion, their service, and their sacrifices.

That this House records its deep appreciation of the efforts and gifts of the women, men, and children of Australia, for the mitigation of the hardships endured by sailors and soldiers, and for the alleviation of the sufferings of the sick and wounded.

That this House acknowledges with deep reverence and submission the heroism of those who have fallen in the service of their country, and tenders its profound sympathy to their relatives in the hour of their sorrow and their pride.

That the foregoing resolutions be conveyed to the officers, men, and others referred to therein.

Mr. Speaker.

Mr. TUDOR (Yarra) [3.11].—I rise to second the motion. I regret exceedingly that the health of the Prime Minister is such that he is unable to do justice to himself by speaking to it, but I am pleased to know that so far as this Parliament is concerned we have practically come to an end of the war. The motion embraces quite a number of people, including some of ourselves, but I think there are others who should not have been omitted. I understand that 95 per cent. of the home service men volunteered for service abroad, and were unable to get away.

Mr. GREGORY.—I do not believe that 95 per cent. of them volunteered.

Mr. TUDOR.—I believe that was the percentage. I know men who gave up good positions and volunteered, but were kept in Australia. They do not get any of the benefits of the Repatriation Act, and are not included in the war gratuity, and the least we can do is to extend our thanks to them. Again, there are the men of the mercantile marine. In the discussion of the War Gratuity Bill the honorable member for Melbourne Ports (Mr. Mathews) mentioned cases of men of that service who were torpedoed twice. We are not according our thanks to them.

Mr. MAKIN.—There are also the munition workers.

Mr. TUDOR.—Yes; munition workers and war workers ought to be included. I do not depreciate the services rendered by all the classes mentioned in the motion, but I think that home service men, war workers, munition workers, men of the mercantile marine, and men who served in the auxiliary naval force and citizen forces, compulsorily called up for garrison artillery work, guarding our own shores, should be included in the motion.

Mr. McWILLIAMS (Franklin) [3.13].—I support the motion. We are yet too close to the war to realize what our people have done during the struggle. We know that those who went away from Australia did their fair share, and that if it had not been for the Army and Navy of the Empire we would not be sitting here today, and the position of Australia would have been very different. We are not yet able to regard with a proper perspective what we owe to those who went into that hell for nearly five years' fighting for the preservation of the liberties

we are enjoying to-day. The heartfelt thanks of this House and of the nation should go out to those who preserved those liberties for us.

Mr. HUGHES.—With the permission of the House I shall be very pleased to add to the motion the following paragraph covering the classes of persons referred to by the Leader of the Opposition:—

That the thanks of this House be also accorded to the men who enlisted for Home Service, the Munition and War Workers, the Merchantile Marine, the Royal Naval Auxiliary Forces, and the Citizen Forces called up for Garrison Artillery work.

Question (by leave) amended accordingly, and resolved in the affirmative, honorable members rising in their places.

ARBITRATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. RILEY.—Is it the intention of the Government to give the House an early opportunity of amending the Conciliation and Arbitration Act with a view to providing an easier method of dealing with the many cases now cited for hearing?

Mr. HUGHES.—The Government have been giving a great deal of attention to this matter. Parliament has amended the Act many times, and every time the House has been led to expect that there would be a great improvement, that cases would be more expeditiously heard, and that justice would be more effectively and speedily done; but it can be hardly said that the facts of a very lengthy experience of the working of the Act have warranted those expectations. The Government are very anxious to exercise the limited powers at their disposal to the very best advantage, and for that reason have convened a conference of all persons interested, in order that we may seek counsel and advice from them. Those who are charged with the conduct of industrial affairs in unions will agree with me that there is great room for improvement. I have no bias in one direction or another. If we can secure industrial peace by means of the Arbitration Court well and good, but it is obvious that we must use every effort to secure it. I am hopeful that those who from their long experience are very familiar with the causes that lead to industrial disputes as well as the means that now exist for their settlement will at this conference be able from their joint wisdom to suggest to the Government a

means whereby, at any rate, we may improve the existing machinery. More than that I cannot say, but it would be an unwise policy to amend the law by patching it up on the lines we have already followed in the past. I see no reason for believing that from such a means any lasting good could come.

ANZAC RIFLE RANGE, LIVERPOOL.

Mr. FLEMING (for Mr. BOWDEN) asked the Minister representing the Minister for Defence, upon notice—

Whether, in view of the fact that the National Rifle Association of New South Wales proposes to hold its annual meeting on the Anzac Rifle Range, Liverpool, in October next, and that teams from all parts of the Commonwealth, New Zealand, and Great Britain will be competing in the matches, making the competition the second largest rifle meeting in the world, will he take immediate steps to have all necessary work carried out in order to put the range in proper condition for the competition?

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE.—As this range will also be required for military purposes action is being taken in the direction indicated.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE OF VICTORIA.

Mr. BURCHELL (for Mr. KERBY) asked the Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation, upon notice—

1. Whether it is a fact that great dissatisfaction exists among returned soldiers over the vocational training arrangements with the Working Men's College of Victoria?

2. Is it a fact that of 286 men selected to attend the accountancy classes at the Melbourne Technical School (the Working Men's College) only thirteen attended; if so, what was the reason?

3. Is it a fact that the teachers in accountancy for the Melbourne Technical School course are not registered or are not qualified?

4. Is it a fact that the Melbourne Technical School uses for its correspondence courses the text books of the International Correspondence Schools, and charges more for two-thirds of the I.C.S. course than the I.C.S. does for the whole course?

5. Is it a fact that higher fees are charged by the Melbourne Technical School for vocational trainees than are charged for ordinary students?

Mr. POYNTON.—The answers to the honorable member's questions are as follows:—

1. No; but dissatisfaction has been expressed because certain trainees were not permitted to undergo training at private institutions.

2. Two hundred and eighty-six applicants were granted courses at the Melbourne Technical School, and 96 have commenced. The remainder declined to accept the assistance as they desired to train at private institutions.

3. These appointments are made by the State Minister for Education on the advice of his responsible officers, and I understand the appointees do not require to register. The instructors connected with the Accountancy Class hold very high credentials, and comprise two University graduates and three Associates of the Institute of Commonwealth Accountants.

4. The courses are identical, but the Melbourne Technical School purchased the right to use such courses in Victoria pending the writing of its own courses, completion of which is anticipated in the early future. The Melbourne Technical School does not charge more than the International Correspondence Schools for the same course, but, on the contrary, less.

5. No. The charges are identical where the applicants attend a class, but where a correspondence course is taken returned soldier students obtain the same for £5 14s. less than that charged other students.

TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

Mr. BLAKELEY asked the Minister for Trade and Customs, *upon notice*—

1. What is the total amount made available, as subsidy, to the different States for the treatment of venereal diseases?

2. What States have complied with the conditions laid down by the Commonwealth Government in connexion with the subsidy?

3. What States have claimed the subsidy?

Mr. LAIRD SMITH (for Mr. GREENE).—The answers to the honorable member's questions are as follow:—

1. The total amount available to State Governments subject to the conditions laid down is £13,000 per annum.

2. Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

3. Victoria, Western Australia, and Tasmania.

VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

COUNTRY PROGRAMME.

Mr. BURCHELL (for Mr. KERBY) asked the Prime Minister, *upon notice*—

1. Whether it is a fact that the Victorian programme of festivities arranged for the visit of the Prince of Wales has been curtailed?

2. If so, are the country centres the only ones which have had their programmes curtailed?

3. If so, will he make arrangements by which country centres may carry out their original programmes, and any curtailment of festivities necessary be arranged in metropolitan areas?

Mr. HUGHES.—His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has expressed his wishes as to the hours for official functions, and has also asked that he be allowed certain time free for his own purposes daily. Programmes have therefore been amended accordingly, but country interests have not been sacrificed to those of the city.

NATIONALITY OF P. AND M. MITCHELL.

Mr. MATHEWS (for Dr. MALONEY) asked the Minister for Home and Territories, *upon notice*—

Will he inform the House if Peter and Maurice Mitchell, who were heavily fined for keeping a filthy café, as reported in the *Age* of the 30th April, are of British nationality; and, if not, will he ascertain what is their nationality, and what are their real names?

Mr. POYNTON.—They are of British nationality, having been naturalized in 1914. They arrived in Australia in 1909 from Greece, of which country they were natives. They were naturalized under the names of Pythagoras Hadzimichael and Mavroedis Hadzimichael.

REPATRIATION.

SUFFERERS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Mr. CAMERON asked the Minister representing the Minister for Repatriation, *upon notice*—

Whether the Minister will state what measures are being taken by the Department towards the repatriation of returned soldiers suffering from tuberculosis, in view of the specially distressing circumstances surrounding such cases?

Mr. POYNTON.—The policy of the Department is to provide for this class of invalids as follows:—

Incipient tubercular cases will be treated at sanatoria throughout the Commonwealth where patients, besides receiving skilled medical attention, will be given lectures, demonstrations, &c., with a view to educating them as to the course of life most suitable for their condition, and to encourage them to keep their complaint in subjection.

For the men whose complaint has been arrested, special farms, under the supervision of eminent medical men, have, and are being, established with suitable quarters, both for families of married men, and single men, whereon every endeavour will be made to stabilize the health of the patients, at the same time imparting to them instruction as to agricultural pursuits, so as to enable them later on, should they so desire, to undertake the best form of open-air employment on a farm of their own.

Special hostels in cheerful surroundings have been procured in most of the States for the more serious cases, and others are in course of acquisition, established as near to capital cities as possible, to enable the relatives and friends of the patients to visit them with facility.

With regard to certain of these institutions, the Red Cross Society is co-operating with the Department, whilst arrangements have also been made to utilize special wards at certain State institutions, pending completion of the Department's own establishments.

This policy has been indorsed by the Departmental Medical Advisory Committee, consisting of Sir Henry Maudsley, K.C.M.G.; and Drs. R. J. Stawell, G. Syme, and J. Ramsay Webb, gentlemen most eminent in their profession. In his presidential address at a recent meeting of the British Medical Association, Dr. J. Ramsay Webb, in referring to this policy, said:—"For the first time in this State, there will be available a means of treatment which represents in full our personal knowledge of the disease."

CORRECTION OF MARINE CHART.

Mr. LAIRD SMITH (for Mr. GREENE).—On 29th April the honorable member for Hindmarsh (Mr. Makin) asked the following questions:

1. Whether the Government has been informed of the confusing nature of marine charts for St. Vincent's Gulf (South Australia) especially in the vicinity of Wardang Island?

2. If so, will an immediate correction of such charts be made?

I then stated that the information was being obtained. I am now able to furnish the honorable member with the following information:

1. The Prime Minister has been in communication with the Premier of South Australia with regard to the marine charts for St. Vincent's Gulf, and it has been decided to request the Department of the Navy to send an officer over at an early date in order to check the charts in the vicinity of Wardang Island.

2. When this has been done steps will be taken to make public the information obtained.

EXPORT OF WOOL.

Mr. HUGHES.—On the 29th April the honorable member for Dampier (Mr. Gregory) asked me the following questions:

1. How many bales of wool were shipped from Australia during the quarters ending 31st December, 1919, and 31st March, 1920?

2. How many bales is it estimated will be shipped during the quarter ending 30th June, 1920?

3. What surplus of the British Government purchase is it estimated will be waiting shipment after the 30th June, 1920?

4. Can the Prime Minister give any reliable estimate as to when this surplus will be shipped from Australia?

I then promised to have inquiries made with a view to furnishing the information desired. I am now in a position to supply the honorable member with the following replies:

1. For quarter ended 31st December, 1919, 461,884 bales; for quarter ended 31st March, 1920, 549,946 bales. The above periods included 100,000 bales shipped for sale in America, and 113,000 bales shipped for sale in Antwerp, and the quantities shown are in excess of that shipped during the quarter ended 30th September, 1919, namely, 414,857 bales.

2. On the basis of shipping space allotted for April, and also those quantities which have been cleared during April, the estimated quantity to be shipped for the quarter ending 30th June, 1920, is 490,000 bales. This is based on theoretical calculations, which, in practice, have rarely been confirmed.

3. From a minimum of 1,250,000 to a maximum of 1,500,000 bales.

4. Owing to the uncertainty regarding shipping space allotments and the absence of information regarding requirements for countries other than the United Kingdom, it is impossible to fix a reliable date by which the surplus wool will have been shipped from Australia. The Central Wool Committee are not hopeful of the carry-over wools from 30th June, 1920, being shipped before the end of 1920 or early in 1921.

WAR GRATUITY BILL.

Assent reported.

PAPERS.

The following papers were presented:

Convention revising the General Act of Berlin, 26th February, 1885, and the General Act and Declaration of Brussels, 2nd July, 1890, signed at Saint-Germain-en-Laye, 10th September, 1919.

Arbitration (Public Service) Act—

Awards and Orders made by the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration and other documents in the following cases:

Arms Explosives and Munition Workers' Federation of Australia.
(Dated 30th March, 1920.)

Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Association, and the Commonwealth Postmasters' Association.
(Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Australian Commonwealth Post and Telegraph Officers' Association.
(Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Australian Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association—
(Dated 30th March, 1920.)
(Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Australian Letter Carriers' Association.
(Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Australian Postal Electricians' Union—
(Dated 1st March, 1920.)
(Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Australian Postal Linesmen's Union.
(Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Commonwealth General Division Telephone Officers' Association. (Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Commonwealth Public Service Artisans' Association. (Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Commonwealth Public Service Clerical Association. (Dated 9th April, 1920) (two.)

Commonwealth Temporary Clerks' Association. (Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Federated Public Service Assistants' Association of Australia. (Dated 9th April, 1920) (three.)

General Division Officers' Union of the Trade and Customs Department of Australia. (Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Line Inspectors' Association—Commonwealth of Australia. (Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Meat Inspectors' Association—Commonwealth Public Service. (Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Postal Sorters' Union of Australia. (Dated 9th April, 1920.)

Audit Act—Regulations Amended—Statutory Rules 1920, No. 59.

Lands Acquisition Act—Land acquired under, at—North Preston, Victoria—For Repatriation purposes.

Papua—Ordinance of 1920—No. 1.—Land.

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION BILL.

In Committee (Consideration of Senate's message resumed from 30th April, *vide* page 1702):

House of Representatives' Amendment.—Insert the following new clause:—"The Commission shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, have power to assist soldiers in establishing industries on a co-operative basis, such industries to include the manufacture of boots, woollen goods, and clothing, tanning, wool-scouring, fellmongering (and kindred industries), saw-milling, and other enterprises."

Senate's Message.—Amendment disagreed to.

Upon which Mr. POYNTON had moved—

That the amendment be not insisted on.

And upon which Mr. HIGGS had moved by way of amendment—

That the following words be added, "but that, as an alternative amendment, the following clause be inserted in the Bill:—

"47A. (1) The Commission shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, have power to assist soldiers by way of loan to the extent of pound for pound contributed by them in cash or war bonds for the purpose of establishing industries on a co-operative basis, such industries to include the manufacture of boots, woollen

goods, and clothing, tanning, wool-scouring, fellmongering (and kindred industries), saw-milling, and other enterprises." (2) The regulations may prescribe the conditions upon which any loan granted in pursuance of this section shall be repayable."

Mr. HIGGS (Capricornia) [3.30]

Had there been no Senate, the amendment carried by this Committee at the instance of the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill) would have been the law of the land.

Mr. FENTON.—A further reason for doing without the Senate.

Mr. HIGGS.—No; the Senate is justifying its existence. The motive of the honorable member for Echuca in providing that the Government should advance money to soldiers for co-operative purposes was of the very highest. Those of us who have tried in various ways to bring about a better condition of society welcome anything in the nature of co-operation. But we must protect Government funds by providing that all attempts at co-operation shall be upon a business basis. The honorable member pointed out the serious discrepancy between our attitude in advancing without security up to £650 per house, stock, and implements to assist people to go upon the land, whilst not advancing money to enable soldiers to engage in other enterprises. That is quite true; but honorable members will recollect that when repatriation was first discussed, everybody was hopeful that nearly all returned soldiers would desire to go upon the land. Land settlement was to be the solution of all our difficulties, and a Committee, of which the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Millen) was a member, considered proposals for advancing as much as £70,000,000 to enable men to go upon the land. We have found, however, that not more than 5 per cent. of the 250,000 returned soldiers desire to settle upon the land, and I am sure the honorable member for Echuca will realize that a great many of those who are going upon the land will unhappily fail. Land and estate agents are of opinion that within a few years a large number of soldiers' farms will be on the market, because the soldier farmers will discover they have no taste for the work, and will endeavour to get back to the cities. My alternative amendment will provide that if any returned soldiers desire to put up their own

ey in cash or war bonds for the purpose of engaging in co-operative enterprises, the Government shall advance money to them on a £1 for £1 basis.

EARLE PAGE.—Why discriminate between men on the land and those who do not engage in other enterprises?

HIGGS.—I have already explained that the policy of advancing money to enable men to go upon the land, but requiring them to put up any of their own capital, was conceived for the special purpose of encouraging men to leave the over-populated cities and settle in vacant areas. If we wish to save civilization we must make country life attractive in every way. Any businessman knows that there are hundreds of thousands of people throughout Australia who are prepared to go into co-operative or other businesses if somebody will find the money.

EARLE PAGE.—The advances are to be subject to the approval of the Commissioner and the Minister.

HIGGS.—I invite the attention of the Committee to the number of persons available in all kinds of businesses each year.

HILL.—Not co-operative businesses.

HIGGS.—The failures are not so numerous in connexion with co-operative businesses, but a limited liability company is a co-operative body more or less. The following particulars concerning insolvencies are taken from the *Commonwealth Year-Book*, but the Commonwealth Statistician is careful to point out that the figures regarding the assets are very unreliable:

Year	No. of Insolvencies	Liabilities.		Assets.
		£	£	
1918	1,324	768,329	..	504,047
1918	1,348	961,655	..	570,025
1918	1,360	893,689	..	491,984
1918	1,090	892,913	..	689,570
1918	845	677,000	..	477,000

Every year thousands of persons go into businesses and fail. It must be borne in mind that those persons believe in their particular industries or occupations, and invest their own money. But if the Commonwealth, in addition to paying £26,000 by way of a war gratuity, is prepared to advance money, without seeking to 250,000 soldiers—and the hon. member for Echuca (Mr. Hill)

mentioned no limit to the amount—I wonder how many millions of pounds will be required.

MR. McWILLIAMS.—The Commission and the Minister will have to approve of the advances.

MR. HIGGS.—It would not be within the power of any single person or Board to cope with the applications that would be made as soon as it was made known that 250,000 soldiers could each get an advance of £200 in order to start them in co-operative businesses. The money required will amount to about £15,000,000 over and above the £26,000,000 for the war gratuity.

MR. McWILLIAMS.—The money would be advanced only to those persons who were prepared to work in the businesses themselves.

MR. ROBERT COOK.—The money would be required only for those who would apply for it under the Act.

MR. HIGGS.—Does the honorable member know who will apply? Every man will have the right to do so. Business men in the city are being approached from day to day by men who have made some discovery or invention which they require capital to exploit.

MR. JAMES PAGE.—No one has approached the honorable member?

MR. HIGGS.—I was amongst others who were approached by a man who had invented a smoke consumer, but it was ascertained that smoke was consumed by tapping a forced draft supplied by some neighbouring bottle works. The smoke was consumed all right, and it seemed a perfectly good proposition; but when it had been examined by the engineer in charge of the Victorian Railways it was ascertained that it would require an engine as large as the one it was proposed to treat, in order to furnish the means of consuming the smoke. There are thousands of inventors who thoroughly believe that their inventions, if supported by capital, would revolutionize industry; and I wonder how many proposals were made to the Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce) during the war by people who were prepared to demonstrate to his satisfaction that if he supplied the necessary money the inventors could provide appliances that would end the war. We must make some business proposition before we can expect the

Senate to assent. I ask honorable members who, apparently, propose to advance £50,000,000—

Mr. ROBERT COOK.—Not 25 per cent. of the men will apply, so that the £50,000,000 is all bunkum!

Mr. HIGGS.—Are we prepared to advance £50,000,000 without security in order to enable men to start enterprises? Is the country able to stand such an expenditure? We must have regard to the financial position of the Commonwealth. We have to borrow £30,000,000 to carry on as at present, and if we advance money in the way suggested, where should we land ourselves?

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—The House accepted the proposal.

Mr. HIGGS.—That is true, but it accepted it in a hurry, and the Senate has rejected it. The mover of this motion must admit that its terms are very bald; there is no restriction on the amount, and no prohibition as to the nature of the proposals to be made. I hope, therefore, that honorable members, if they are going to send an alternative proposal to the Senate, will send one of a business character. It is no new principle for a Government or a municipality to subsidize hospitals in the ratio of £1 for every £1 subscribed by the public, and in such cases there is something like a pledge that those who subscribe have some faith in the idea.

Mr. HILL.—Why did the Government not put men on the land under those conditions?

Mr. HIGGS.—I was in hopes that the honorable member would accept my explanation. I know nothing to account for the overwhelming generosity of the Government in the way of putting men on the land than a belief on their part that our cities are too large, and that, in order to save ourselves from total destruction, we must get people into the country.

Mr. HILL.—That is one reason for the establishment of industries in country districts.

Mr. HIGGS.—But the honorable member's idea is not confined to country districts; an enterprise under this Bill may mean a factory in a back street in Melbourne.

Mr. HILL (Echuca) [3.43].—I should like to remind the Government—

Mr. HIGGS.—The honorable member for Barrier (Mr. Considine) has just, in my hearing, uttered words which I regard as offensive, and I request that they be withdrawn. The honorable member suggests that the Government inst^d the amendment I proposed. This I regard as objectionable and offensive, and ask that the statement be withdrawn.

Mr. POYNTON.—The statement is so-lutely incorrect.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Atkinson).—I did not hear the words uttered by the honorable member for Barrier.

Mr. HIGGS.—I did, and I insist on their withdrawal.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.—If the honorable member for Barr, has said anything offensive to the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Hill), I request that what he said be withdrawn.

Mr. CONSIDINE.—If I have said anything offensive to the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs)—if you could say anything offensive to him—I withdraw it.

Mr. HIGGS.—I object to the terms of that withdrawal, which, I say, is qualified and more offensive even than [r original words. I hope, Mr. Atkins you will protect me; if you do not, I shall have to rise and say something in mitigation, and that I do not wish to do so.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.—I ask the honorable member for Barrier (Mr. Considine) to make an unqualified withdrawal of the words he used.

Mr. CONSIDINE.—I withdraw them.

Mr. HILL.—I was about to call the attention of the Government to your remarks of the Minister for Works and Railways (Mr. Groom), when dealing with this amendment on Friday last. That honorable gentleman said that the Government would stand to its promises, and, going further, added that the honorable member for Franklin (Mr. Williams) sought to go back on a decision of the House. But what are the government attempting now but to go back on a decision of the House? The minister in charge of the Bill (Mr. Poynton) accepted the amendment when it was originally before us, and it was sed on the voices; but now, judging from that honorable gentleman's remarks & interjections to-day, it is desired to reverse

decision. Now that the Commission is to be appointed, I shall endeavour to insist that this clause be retained in the Bill. The measure, as it stands, may be classed as purely and simply a Pensions Bill. The Commission would not have anything to do were the clause to be deleted. Its retention would, at any rate, provide some work; it would, in a measure, justify the Commissioners' appointment. The principle underlying the establishment of industries as set out in the clause, is one which has been welcomed by returned soldiers and by thousands of people in country districts, if the shoals of letters which I have received are at all indicative. I wish to deal now with the information furnished by the Senate for opposition to the clause. The first is—

Because it is not considered equitable to extend collective bodies of soldiers benefits for individual soldiers might not be eligible.

There are large numbers of men for whom no provision has been or can be made individually; but by forming them into troupes on the co-operative principle many could be provided for who otherwise would be left outside the scope of any provision which has yet been made. When our boys enlisted we were serious to get them that we made several promises to the effect that when they returned we would see that they were placed in positions identical with, or as good as, if not better than, those they had previously occupied. In instances these promises have been honoured. But, with regard to men who have no definite trade or calling, this "co-operative" clause was intended to suit their requirements. I ask the Government and the people whether they propose to honour their promises, or to relegate them as scraps of paper.

RICHARD FOSTER.—Does the honorable member infer that the Government have not honoured their promises to soldiers?

Mr. HILL.—I mean to say that there are many men to-day who are without work. The Government have honoured their promises to some extent, but there are many men who have not yet been repatriated. The principle of co-operation provides the only way in which to give them a fair deal, and to fully honour our promises.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—That is the honorable member's opinion.

Mr. HILL.—It is, and I give it for what it may be worth.

Mr. AUSTIN CHAPMAN.—Is not the opinion of the honorable member as good as that of the honorable member for Wakefield?

Mr. HILL.—I hope it is. The second reason furnished by another place in supporting its rejection of the clause states—

Because the effect of the granting of the benefits contemplated by the amendment would result in the unsettlement of the large majority of men whose re-establishment in civil life has been already accomplished.

It knocks over the contentions of the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) if so many have been already provided for. True, there are not so many left who still require that provision shall be made for them; but the fact remains that numbers have not yet been re-established in civil life, and it is these whom I wish to help. The establishment of such industries as I have suggested would certainly prove of very great assistance to men who are without regular employment, who do not follow any defined trade or calling. While dealing with the matter of woollen mills and similar enterprises a few days ago, I was pointing out that there would be very little risk of loss in launching upon such industries, provided that the right class of men were chosen.

Mr. AUSTIN CHAPMAN.—And provided that they were established in the right localities.

Mr. HILL.—I would undertake to find the right localities, and would begin by nominating Echuca and Shepparton.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—A selection based upon broad national lines, of course.

Mr. WEST.—Does the honorable member want them all in Victoria?

Mr. HILL.—I would leave it to the honorable member to choose localities in New South Wales; but I would nominate Echuca, the capital of the north, and Shepparton, the capital of the Goulburn Valley. Surely, the Government will not want everything in Melbourne. In the course of my earlier remarks, I demonstrated that huge profits were made from woollen mills. A little time ago, I made my way down

Flinders-lane, and bought a suit length of cloth, $3\frac{3}{4}$ yards, for 32s. per yard; the piece cost me £6.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—Preparing for the Prince's visit, I suppose?

Mr. HILL.—It was not good enough for the Prince; there was some cotton in it.

Mr. FOWLER.—Which is dearer than wool.

Mr. HILL.—The suit length contained 3 1-5 lb. of wool. Allowing a high price, namely, 4s. 6d. per lb. for clean, scoured wool, that would amount to 14s. 5d. That is to say, out of my suit length, the producer would get 14s. 5d., while the manufacturer and the middleman would make £5 5s. 7d. Do not honorable members think that that example suggests a good opportunity for our returned men to make a payable proposition out of the establishment of a woollen mill? Do they not think that here is demonstrated a far better opportunity to succeed than returned men are ever likely to have on the land? I do not wish to say anything with regard to the Government's land settlement policy; but I fear there will be a lot of failures among returned soldier settlers. The principle held by the various Governments of buying out one man in order to put another on the land is most unsatisfactory, and altogether unsound.

In my own district, land values have appreciated from £1 to £4 an acre during the past three months, and more land has changed hands during those three months than in the course of the previous three years. There are large areas of unalienated land in the Commonwealth. I do not know to what extent they exist in other States, but, presumably, they would be even larger than in Victoria. In our north-western mallee country there are 5,400,000 acres which have been graded as first, second, and third class land. I have consistently advocated that this land should be given to our returned boys in living areas of, say, 640 acres of first-class land, or 1,000 acres of second, or 1,500 acres of third-class land. There are very few but who would make a success upon such blocks. Of course, I would stipulate certain conditions, and not leave the way open for returned soldiers to leave their holdings in twelve months, or in two or three years. I would compel them to live on their lots for a certain time. It would be "up to" the Government to

furnish necessary improvements, such as good roads, railway facilities, water conservation, and the like. There is sufficient land in the north-western mallee areas to repatriate 5,000 men; and as an outcome of their activities, the opening up of this territory would, within five to ten years, an increase of the wheat yield in Victoria amounting between 40 per cent. and 50 per cent. The Government have continually called out for increased production; the only way to bring that about is to place more men on the land. They cannot hope to look for increased production, however, by going in for a policy of buying out one man and putting in another. The third reason given by the Senate for agreeing to my amendment is—

Because grave financial loss to the Government and disappointment to bodies of men may result from the starting of enterprises which may not prove successful.

I am perfectly sure that a number of the returned soldiers have been settled on the land under conditions which make it impossible for them to hope for success. I regret to have to say that I believe we shall have a great number of failures amongst the returned men settled on the land. I will not say that there could be no failures under my amendment, but I believe the number would be less than we may expect under the land settlement proposals for repatriation. In any case if we advanced a certain amount, I have suggested £250, in connexion with the building of soldiers' homes, the labour, and machinery would not run away, though a number of the men might become dissatisfied, and leave the co-operative organizations.

In regard to the last reason given by the Senate for disagreeing to my amendment, I should like to say that the Government, by accepting the amendment in the first place, showed that they approved of the proposal. No provision had been made for soldiers' industrial conception. I challenge the Government to say whether any provision has been made for the proper repatriation of large numbers of men who are not skilled in different trades and callings. My main reason for submitting my amendment is to meet the case of these men. I hope that honorable members on both sides are fully alive to the necessity of doing something for these men for whom at present

rovision has been made. Nothing has been done for them as individuals, but I may hope to do something for them privately. I hope that the Committee will insist on the amendment, and with respect to the honorable member for Capricornia, I trust that his alternative amendment will not be agreed to.

RILEY (South Sydney) [4.3].—I would like, first of all, to know why the Government have changed their mind in this matter. I expected that the Minister (Mr. Poynton) would make an important statement giving good reasons why the Government should go back on the decision of the Committee in this matter. The honorable member for Cowper (Mr. Higgs) said that we had thank the Senate that the amendment submitted here by the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill) is not a law of the country. Perhaps it would be as well to remind the country of the nature of the work done by the Senate. That branch of this Legislature passed the Bill through so quickly, and in such a slipshod fashion, that it had to send a number of amendments to the Government for the improvement of the measure while it was under consideration in this House.

Poynton.—The Senate did not send those amendments.

RILEY.—Well, the Government proposed those amendments for the improvement of a Bill which was passed by the Senate under the supervision of the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Miller) and the Minister for Defence (Senator Pearce). When it was received here it was found that a whole series of amendments were necessary, because the Senate had neglected its work. In view of this the honorable member for Capricornia characterizes the behaviour of the Senate as the behaviour of the country. I look forward to the time when, in the interests of the country, the Senate will be wiped out.

The honorable member for Capricornia gave me a list of private businesses, the owners of which had gone insolvent. It is because there have been so many failures in private enterprises that the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill) is disposed to try a new experiment by bringing men together to work co-operatively to prevent such failures.

The cry of the Government has been for more production, and the adoption of the amendment would be one of the most practical steps that could be taken to increase production. I could mention a number of things in connexion with which men co-operating might do much to develop the resources of the country. For instance, the greasy wool now exported from Australia could be scoured here by unskilled labour. We have plenty of water, we have the wool, and we have unemployed labour. All that would be necessary would be for the Government to assist returned men in different parts of the country to work co-operatively in the scouring of wool before it was brought to the large centres of population. In that way the Government would be doing much to settle people in the country districts. Again, if we consider the building trade, we know that great difficulty is being experienced in providing homes for returned soldiers. If returned men were allowed to co-operate in the building trade for the building of soldiers' homes, a very great deal of good might be effected. If the Government were prepared to advance to men working co-operatively £200 or £300 to buy material for the purpose, a very considerable stimulus could be given to the erection of soldiers' homes. The Government would have a lien on the buildings, and practical control of the whole business. That would help the soldiers, and would find employment for our people. If it is to be left to men to take up the building of these homes by day labour or by contract on the old lines, there will be no stimulation of the business. It seems to me that under the amendment we might very easily start the building of soldiers' homes under the co-operative system. The honorable member for Cowper (Dr. Earle Page) was telling me coming over in the train that there are large quantities of beautiful timber in his district which could be cut and supplied by co-operative groups of returned men for the erection of soldiers' homes. He is in a position to assure the Government that there is plenty of good timber in his district for the purpose, and the Government might assist returned soldiers in the establishment of saw-mills there. Under existing conditions, the Government are compelled to pay the high prices for timber for soldiers' homes fixed by the Combine that

exists in the timber industry, and these high prices are ultimately passed on to the returned soldiers. I have been in the building trade all my life, and I am confident that a soldier's home which costs under existing conditions about £700 could be built for £500 if it were not for the action of the Combines controlling the timber industry and the manufacture of bricks and cement.

Mr. GREGORY.—Where do the Combines end?

Mr. RILEY.—I think they have no end. Their number continues to increase, and they are to be found operating all over the country. Under the amendment submitted by the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill), the Government could assist returned soldiers to establish co-operative saw-mills, and there would be a ready market for all the timber they could cut, as there are thousands of men who are still awaiting homes. The Government might also assist returned soldiers to co-operate in the manufacture of bricks. There is a good market for bricks in every city in Australia, and bricks, as well as timber, are required for the erection of soldiers' homes. The Brick Combine in New South Wales has put up the price of bricks to as high as £5 per 1,000. I can remember the time when bricks could be purchased for 25s. per 1,000.

What the honorable member for Echuca proposes is a departure from the rut, but we cannot hope to put an end to industrial unrest unless we change our present methods.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—You will not do so by methods of this kind.

Mr. RILEY.—One of the best means to bring about industrial peace is to enable men to work for themselves. I have known the honorable member for Wakefield (Mr. Richard Foster) to grow quite red in the face on many occasions in this Chamber in advocating co-operation.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—Not in a matter of this kind, but only on a basis of sanity.

Mr. RILEY.—When will it be right, in the honorable member's opinion, to begin co-operative work? The Government have money to spend in the repatriation of returned soldiers. It is the policy of the country that they should be as soon as possible established again in civil life, and the only question is as to the best

method to be adopted for this purpose. This should not be regarded as a par-
matter. We ought all to unite in
earnest endeavour to solve this un-
ployed problem. Upon my return
to Sydney, only last week, I had occasion
to pass the Repatriation Offices, where I
saw hundreds of men going up to register
their names as applicants for sustenance.
Whom is that practice going to serve?
The Government are merely feeding
men from day to day without building
any permanent industries in which they
may obtain employment. Here is an
opportunity for them to establish upon
a co-operative basis new industries in which
our returned soldiers may labour to
produce that wealth for which the country
is crying out. Yet the Government
are down here and without assigning
reasons for their change of front, are
not to insist upon our amendment
which the other branch of the Legislature
has disagreed.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—The reasons
of their action have been printed.

Mr. RILEY.—They are ridiculous
reasons. No honorable member can
give the reversal of his previous vote
those reasons.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—No vote
has been taken in this Committee upon

Mr. FENTON.—The Committee agreed
to the amendment unanimously.

Mr. RILEY.—The amendment was
submitted by the honorable member for Echuca who
lasciviously adopted by the Minister for
Home and Territories (Mr. Poynter) who said, "I recognise that the men
are up," and accordingly it was carried.
Had the Government been carried
by the honorable gentleman, the
which occurred on Friday afternoon
would have been avoided. After the
which was then taken, any self-respecting
Government would have gone out of office.
I shall support the amendment submitted
by the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Fenton)
and shall oppose the decision arrived at
by the Senate. At the present time
the other branch of the Legislature does not
truly represent the people of this country.
An election took place recently, and as a
result I believe that the Senate has no
constitutional right to reject any measure
passed by this Chamber.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER (Wakefield) [4.13].—I do not care for the amendment
of the honorable member for Capricornia
(Mr. Higgs), but I like it very much

than I do the amendment of the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill). It exceedingly impresses me that reasonably be conveyed by the report of the honorable member for to the attitude of the Government regard to the fulfilment of their promises to our returned soldiers. I am aware that that reference must have been unwittingly, and that if its had thought the matter out calmly would never have made the suggestion did. In so far as it was possible from them, the Government have deemed their promises to our returned soldiers. Literally, they have abundantly redeemed them. There is no nation in the world which has acted more generously to its soldiers than has done through the medium of the Commonwealth Government. The States, too, have acted similarly within the limit of their resources. I acknowledge that the services of the men from this country can never adequately be recognised in a material way but we have gone to the very limit of our resources in order to express gratitude to these men. I am in favour of the amendment of the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill), and Committee to be guided by the report which have been submitted to this Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Millen).

MR. JAMES PAGE.—You forget that the proposals to be established are subject to the approval of the Minister.

MR. RICHARD FOSTER.—I know what, and I shall deal with that matter presently. I tell the honorable member, as I told him the other day, that the Minister, on the moment, accepted the amendment as it contained some sort of a safeguard. I am in entire with the object of the honorable member for the Country party.

—You ought to be.

MR. RICHARD FOSTER.—I am; but place it upon a solid foundation. Years ago I was a founder of what is to-day one of the best operative societies in Australia. About twenty years it had to pass through great difficulties, but to-day is one of the best institutions of its kind in the world, because it is upon a sound basis. If the honorable

member for Echuca wishes us to embark upon similar enterprises, why does he not seek to establish co-operative industries for our soldiers by the application to that purpose of their war gratuities?

MR. HILL.—Why do you not apply the soldier's gratuity to land settlement?

MR. RICHARD FOSTER.—In the encouragement of land settlement and in the repatriation of our soldiers the Government have behaved handsomely. Experience has already proved that we are going to lose millions of pounds upon our scheme of land settlement for our soldiers, and that scheme rests on an infinitely sounder basis than does the establishment of co-operative industries in the way that is now proposed. In South Australia there are returned men who intend launching out on the co-operative principle to the extent of £250,000 by applying their war gratuities to this purpose.

MR. GIBSON.—Under the amendment of the honorable member for Capricornia, we should have to advance those men another £250,000.

MR. RICHARD FOSTER.—I am going to accept the lesser of two evils. The land is here, and cannot get away.

MR. PROWSE.—But the £625 can get away.

MR. RICHARD FOSTER.—That is a perishable asset, and yet it is a better asset than is that which we are now considering. We have already had a painful experience in connexion with many of the advances made to our soldiers for homes, stock, and implements, to the extent of £650. The proposal will be more troublesome to the Repatriation Department than any it has handled up to date.

MR. FENTON.—But if it is good in principle, why not test it?

MR. RICHARD FOSTER.—I invite the honorable member to bring it before any financial institution. He will then find out its real value. The honorable member for Maranoa (Mr. James Page) knows.

MR. JAMES PAGE.—I know that a man gets very little sympathy from a bank when he is down or in a hole.

MR. RICHARD FOSTER.—And this proposal is not the way to get any man out of a hole. I repeat that the Government have gone to the limit of their

resources in order to provide for our returned soldiers, and I want my honorable friends in the corner, who appear to regard themselves as the guardian angels of the farmers of Australia to remember that if we have a dry winter Australia will be in the grip of the worst drought ever experienced in the history of this country. Should this winter be unfavorable the Governments will be at their wit's end to meet the obligations resting upon them, and to so finance as to keep a large proportion of our farmers on the land. Honorable members of the Country party must be aware of this danger. I speak from bitter experience of many droughts, and, therefore, I ask the Committee not to accept any hazardous scheme involving huge financial obligations. We should not adopt any "wildcat" scheme of this nature.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—Oh! Is that how you regard it?

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—I say this advisedly, because I know the danger ahead of us.

Mr. GIBSON.—Then why did you vote for it on the last occasion?

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER. — On the contrary, I denounced it, and did not like it a bit better even with the provision that any proposed co-operative enterprise was to be subject to the approval of the Minister, because, after all, it will be administered by the Commission. The Minister will simply have power to withhold approval.

Dr. EARLE PAGE.—We want to give the Commission something to do.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—The Commission when appointed will have charge of administration with regard to pensions, vocational training, and hospitals for disabled returned soldiers. We cannot expect men who may be experts in that particular aspect of repatriation to be capable of dealing with this "jack-of-all-trades" scheme. A Minister worth his salt will approve of very few of the schemes that may come before him under this proposal. As I have already pointed out, there will be abundant opportunities for our returned soldiers to enter into co-operative enterprises by the investment of their gratuity bonds. Some have already determined upon this course.

Mr. JAMES PAGE (Maranoa) [4.27].—The reference by the honorable mem-

ber for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) people who have gone insolvent dropped out of business reminds me in the early days we always heard men who were lucky, but never of who had gone under financially search for gold, and who had lost health as well. We all know that some men are unsuccessful in a line of business, others can make success of it.

Dr. EARLE PAGE.—Especially who have been "over the top."

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—Yes. were good enough for that, they good enough for these businesses. my conversion to the amendment version were needed, to the argument the honorable member for Warwick (Mr. Stewart) when the Bill was through. His arguments remind of a well-known advertisement touches the spot." We know that who left their labouring jobs to go to the Front were the men who could be depended upon to do things. When there was anything to do, they were the men who attempted it. They did Australia rang from end to end of their glorious achievements. dier was good enough to go away and do everything necessary to make a successful soldier; but because he is a labourer, a factory hand, or a employee, he is not good enough to get a start in business on his return. the Government in favour of keeping men navvies or labourers for ever because they happened to be so before they went abroad? I am strongly in favour of giving the opportunity to improve their position. The honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) says that the soldiers should subscribe £1 for £1. In my own case I had not been for the generous squatter at Barcaldine I would have been worth 5s. to-day. In my early days when I was employed in the country a gentleman asked me how much I intended to have prepared to provide if he gave me £10 to start dairying. I informed him that I had only £10, and he replied that to buy utensils, and I would you with the cows." He did not mind, and thus gave me an opportunity to start on my own account.

member of the Commonwealth Party, mainly because I received some assistance when I needed it. At that time I was a shearer, or shed hand, and was usually employed on railway or other

But I was young, with plenty of time, and I succeeded because I was

Do honorable members who are among the proposed new clause say that men whom we say should benefit are incompetent to be their own masters? Should we ask them to find £100? I do not ask them for anything when we are going to fight for us.

FENTON.—Merely to take the oath.

JAMES PAGE.—Yes, that is all I ask them to subscribe. The honorable member for Wakefield (Mr. Richard

seems to think that co-operative kings of the character mentioned are likely to be successful. We

have many who start in business by the wayside, but most

men, if given the opportunity, will be successful. Many who

benefited largely by their experience would prove satisfactory em-

ployees and I do not think a large percentage would make mistakes if given the

Many of the returned soldiers have been placed on the land island' are doomed to failure be-

cause they know nothing of rural work, and they realize that they do not

nd the business they naturally disheartened. Certain sec-

the industrial community are to limit a week's work to forty

ut we have to remember that aged in rural pursuits are in-

tances endeavouring to do forty work in twenty-four hours. When

those who have recently gone on the

ze that they have to work laboriously continuously to reap any re-

1891 strike, and I do not quarrel with the honorable member for Capricornia concerning his fears, because he knows what happened.

MR. FENTON.—I suppose you were all short of cash at the time.

MR. JAMES PAGE.—Yes. But when we are dealing with men possessing the independent spirit that most Australians have—and, thank God, they have it—we have no occasion to fear. In connexion with the Alice River settlement, to which I am referring, the Government of which Sir Samuel Griffith was then leader helped the settlers, and in 1900, when only five settlers were left, freeholds were granted, with the result that the settlers immediately disposed of their land to the highest bidder. The honorable member for Capricornia believes that something similar will occur in this instance, but he must remember that there is a different feeling abroad to-day, and men know that they have to work to live. Our returned soldiers have gone through fire and water, yea, in many instances, hell itself could not have been worse, and surely they are able to launch out now on their own account in their own country. Even supposing the proposal may mean a loss of millions, we should be prepared to give the system a trial, without which there is no chance of achieving success. Fancy asking men to put up £100 when all the money they possess is what they earn. The honorable member for Wakefield is afraid that men will desire to be assisted in "wild cat" schemes—enterprises that are not likely to prove profitable. Quite a number of people would say that the honorable member himself is not a success.

MR. JACKSON.—But they do not say it.

MR. JAMES PAGE.—They say worse than that. It must be remembered that no co-operative concerns can be established without the consent of the Minister.

MR. McWILLIAMS.—And if the Minister is not sure, he will take the proposal before Cabinet.

MR. JAMES PAGE.—If I was administering the Act, and any doubtful schemes were submitted, I would not have any hesitation in telling the men why the Government could not give their support.

MR. FOWLER.—Every one would not be as firm as the honorable member.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—Honorable members are well aware that it was as hard to get anything out of Mr. Webster when he was Postmaster-General as it would be to draw a camel's tooth. This measure needs to be administered sympathetically, and, as I have often said in this House and on public platforms, there is no man in Australia, either in public or private life, who could have administered the Repatriation Act more satisfactorily than the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Millen). He has been both sympathetic and firm. He has made a lot of enemies by his firmness, but he has steered clear of all danger, and the public of Australia, and the soldiers particularly, should be grateful for what he has done. Knowing now what the feeling of the Committee is, I feel sure that the Minister will stand by the clause, and I can imagine I hear him saying, "Colonel, don't shoot; I will come down." If he wishes for a repetition of what happened on Friday last, he will get it,

Mr. POYNTON.—How long is it since you changed your mind on the subject?

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—I have not done so. I was one of the chief supporters of the proposal when it was first brought forward.

Mr. TUDOR.—Why did the Minister accept the original proposal? The records show that it was amended at his suggestion, and accepted.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—I suppose he saw that the numbers were against him. The first reason of the Senate for disagreeing to clause 47A is—

Because it is not considered equitable to extend to collective bodies of soldiers benefits for which individual soldiers might not be eligible.

No one could present a better case for the clause than has been made out by the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill). If a boss can make £100 a month out of a saw-milling plant, and pay men to work for him—a plant need not be very big to give that profit—why should not returned soldiers, working in co-operation, make similar profits?

Mr. BELL.—I know men who have lost a lot of money this year.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—I know men who have lost money in squatting, and in other businesses. But, generally speaking, success or failure depends largely on management. A number of soldiers could take up milling, some devoting themselves to the finding and fell-

ing of the timber, others acting as teamsters, others working at the mill. They would have to choose one of number to manage the concern, but there is as much intelligence among women as among those of other classes given a chance; many men would succeed out of a business of this kind. Of course, in a case where all wish to be the boss, the thing would fail. Better can we do than to give them a chance? I do not think that if they were put on their honour, it would be as the honorable member for Warrnambool (Mr. Richard Foster) said, millions of pounds.

Mr. POYNTON.—It would cost £12,500,000 if only 25 per cent. of men took advantage of the arrangement.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—If these productive agencies become great things for the Commonwealth.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—Is it suggested that they will all fail?

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—That is the main contention underlying the argument I am combating.

Mr. POYNTON.—The honorable member for Franklin would not put money into a venture of this kind.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—I should be willing to do so, and to give my assistance, feeling sure that within a few months, if we could get rid of the venture would prove a success.

Mr. STEWART.—There are a number of business men who would be glad to give the dinkum soldier a chance.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—Yes; the community would be glad of a chance. I hope the Committee will insist upon its amendment, which would give a chance to those on the lowest rungs of the social ladder. It is the poor who cannot put up a few shillings to help, not those who are provided for.

Mr. JOWETT (Grampians).—The members of the Committee should be grateful to the circumstances which have brought about this very interesting discussion, and have heard the valuable speeches of the honorable members for Capricornia (Mr. Higgins), Maranoa (Mr. J. J. Hill), and others. Having carefully considered the reasons given by the Senator for agreeing to the clause, I consider it insufficient, and although there is considerable merit in the proposal,

able member for Capricornia (Mr.), I hope that the Committee may to it one which I shall submit at r stage, which will, I think, remove ssible objections to the original pro- of the honorable member for a. The clause, as it stands, may, tend to increase the enormous portion between the urban and populations of Australia, and there- wish to amend it that it may

Commission shall, subject to the ap- of the Minister, have power to assist in establishing industries in country s and inland country towns on a co- e basis, such industries to include the ture of boots, woollen goods, and tanning, wool-scouring, fellmongering kindred industries), sawmilling, and enterprises.

gnificance is rarely attached to the drift of population from the to our seaport towns, and the decay of once flourishing and ant country towns. Yearly dur- past decade the capitals have at the expense of the country dis- and at the present time in two the population of the capital is than that of the rest of the State. the population of Adelaide was and that of the rest of South ia 210,000; and the population ourne was 723,500, and that of Victoria 700,258. A similar affairs is gradually coming about her States.

TUDOR.—Is not the same thing g in every country in the world? LEMING.—And at a greater rate countries than in Australia.

JOWETT.—At the proper time, due notice, I shall be prepared ey mankind from China to and; if necessary, to deluge the with statistics; but my concern with what is happening in Aus- here there is no excuse for this ation. If the natural ad- the seaport towns are not counter- in some way such as I have sug- they may eventually attract to almost the whole of the popu- the country.

BERT BEST.—Is not Portland a wn, but also a country town?

ELL.—In Tasmania there are thirteen towns which can be so

Mr. JOWETT.—It is within the province of honorable members to make ex- ceptions in favour of such places as Warrnambool and Portland and others they may see fit to include.

Mr. MATHEWS.—Does not the honor- able member think by giving notice of a further amendment he will kill the whole project?

Mr. JOWETT.—I do not think so. Every honorable member is exceedingly auxious to re-establish country towns in their former position of importance, and to do everything possible to provide adequate employment and remuneration for people who live in country districts and country towns.

Mr. MATHEWS.—I think the honorable member is endeavouring to save the Go- vernment.

Mr. JOWETT.—The honorable member is most ungenerous in sug- gesting any ulterior motive on my part. My object is not to save the Government or the position of any honorable member of the House. My purpose is to save the country districts and the country towns from the process of gradual extinction, and to assist soldiers living in country districts to form co- operative establishments. Soldiers who live in the cities would probably find it advantageous to move their abodes to very salubrious and agreeable country towns for the purpose of securing the same advantage. If the alternative amendment of the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) is defeated, I shall move my amendment.

Mr. POYNTON (Grey—Minister for Home and Territories) [4.58].—I was anxious to hear how the honorable mem- ber would justify creating a distinction between soldiers residing in metropolitan areas and those living in country districts.

Mr. STEWART.—That is not the pro- posal before the Committee at the present time.

Mr. POYNTON.—I am well aware that the proposal before the Committee is the amendment of the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs), and of the two evils I prefer the lesser. But I am amazed at the indifference of the Economy party. They talk quite flip- pantly about the millions which they are willing to take the risk of throwing away.

When the honorable member for Capricornia estimated that the cost of these co-operative concerns would probably be £50,000,000, an honorable member in the Country party's corner said that it would not be more than 25 per cent. of that amount—as if 25 per cent. of £50,000,000 was a mere bagatelle. No proposal has ever come before this Parliament involving greater danger of the waste of public moneys. Even with the reservation that I was the means of having inserted in the proposal of the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill) the provision to which another place has taken exception is an inducement to all those soldiers who are now settled in various occupations to give up their positions and make application to share in the advantages bestowed by it. Very few of the honorable members who support this proposal would put their own money into a project unless they had control over it. We are here as the custodians of public money.

Mr. PROWSE.—How much of his own money would the Minister put into the land settlement policy at present in force?

Mr. POYNTON.—No soldier is assisted on the land unless he has a qualification certificate. To start with, there is an approval Board, and under the original arrangement with regard to land settlement we were very careful to get the whole of each man's experience before he went abroad. In that way we were assured that the men placed on the land would be those who had training for the occupation, but apparently no training is to be demanded from the man who asks to be financed in a co-operative concern. Men who have had twelve months' vocational training are now anxious to be started in a co-operative boot factory, without having learned their trade by a long way.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—What is the position of a man who was managing a saw-mill before he enlisted, and who cannot get back into his old position, but must take a subservient position?

Mr. POYNTON.—There is nothing in the Repatriation Act to prevent his getting assistance even without this amendment. There is no part of the world where more has been done for returned soldiers than has been done here. The honorable member for Maranoa (Mr. James Page) has not

hesitated to say that no man could do better than the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Millen) has. Has not the clause come back from every Minister in another place? the man who most dreads this proposal? I ask the Committee to accept the amendment of the honorable member for Capricornia, because it will provide if men are required to put their money into these concerns.

Mr. FENTON (Maribyrnong).—We have just listened to one of the most surprising addresses ever delivered in this Chamber. One would imagine that it came from a gentleman who only last week readily accepted the proposal of the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill). I have never seen such a change to the right-about.

Mr. POYNTON.—Let the honorable member read what I said about the proposal.

Mr. FENTON.—I do not care whether the honorable gentleman may have given a dozen speeches. It is the final speech that counts, and his final step in assent to the proposal, which his colleagues in the Committee signified. The Minister (Mr. Poynton) has not an ounce of backbone. Last week he was doing something which to-day he says was diametrically opposite to the interests of the country and of returned soldiers. Why has this change come about? Simply because he has had a cursory discussion in another place, and not a heart-to-heart talk such as he has had here among men who are engaged in practical sense in certain industries and are desirous of helping.

Mr. HECTOR LAMOND.—Are you referring to another place in order to reflect on the proposal?

Mr. FENTON.—Another place to be reflected on for having introduced a Bill which had to be completely hauled and sent back to it with an entirely new face on it. It is natural that the Minister for Home Affairs (Senator Millen) should desire to revise his own measure on its return, but there is no reason for claiming that we have done anything wrong. According to the Minister for Home Affairs, there has never yet been a position put forward presenting any avenue for throwing away money. Did ever a Minister stand condemned out of his own measure?

vides that the Repatriation
is to examine every appli-
cation from a body of men to start a
new concern. Six men may
wish to start a saw-mill. The
member for Wimmera (Mr.
pointed out last week the case
engaged in a saw-mill who were
to start on their own account,
not the wherewithal to do so.
no need for any qualification
from them. They have already
begun in the practical work; but
ways to keep them in subservient
and say that we will do nothing
for them? If we find such practical
men to undertake a co-operative
or their own advantage, why
deny them the right to make
I know a young fellow at Red
the Mornington Peninsula, who
going to the war was employed in
He and a few other returned
have purchased a saw-bench, and
are turning out tens of thousands
cases, and are doing well. Is
desirable to help men of that
? Surely we are not going
in our emphatic and unanimous
of last week? If the Repatria-
mission is not satisfied with any
n for assistance under this pro-
will send practical men to find
the mill is to be started, who
to run it, and what previous
they have had. And even if,
king exhaustive inquiries, the
on is favorable, the proposal
to be submitted to the Minister,
is not satisfied he can take
inset. Each application may
ass the criticism and verdict of
rent courts before it is granted.
rable member for Wakefield
hard Foster) has said that if
sal were taken to any financial
it would be turned down.
ve companies are nearly always
upon bank overdrafts to help
rry on, and if a bank is willing
hem they are all right; but I
ted with one co-operative rural
which, just as it was on the eve
and because it happened to
certain private persons out
, was told by the bank,
not assist you any further." Co-operative concern in its
es has been frowned out of
y financial institutions. It

seems to me that a plea has been put up
this afternoon for vested interests. The
honorable member for Maranoa (Mr.
James Page) has shown very clearly
how necessary it is that we should
stand by these men, and help them
to provide for their own requirements.
In the building of homes
for returned soldiers, for instance,
who could better supply the timber, the
bricks, and other material required than
the returned soldiers themselves? And
who has a better right to supply them?
If, however, we adopt the Minister's pro-
posal, we shall deny them that right.
According to a statement in the news-
papers to-day, we have, unfortunately,
in Victoria no less than 4,500 returned
soldiers out of work. That is a disgrace-
ful state of affairs. There may be some
who are unemployable—some whom it is
hard to fit into any position—but I am
quite certain that they are not all unfit
to take up some kind of employment. We
do not seem to be doing very much for
these men. Here we have an oppor-
tunity to help them. Are there likely
to be greater failures in this than in
other phases of industry? No.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—There are going
to be a few failures in connexion with
land settlement.

Mr. FENTON.—A returned soldier ap-
plies to the State Board, secures a block
of land, and has to conduct farming
operations almost entirely without advice
and assistance. Under this scheme,
however, we would have a combination
of energy and intelligence so that where
one might fail a party of half-a-dozen or
more, because of their combined wisdom,
would make good. The industries men-
tioned by the honorable member for
Echuca (Mr. Hill) are but a combination
of one great industry. Who, for in-
stance, has a better right to hold an in-
terest in the management of woollen
mills than the wool-growers? And so
with the clothing, tanning, and fell-
mongering trades. They are all related
to primary industry. I hope that the
Committee will insist upon the new clause
inserted by us in the Bill last week. I
am not in favour of the amendment
proposed by the honorable member for
Capricornia (Mr. Higgs), which the Go-
vernment are accepting as the lesser of
two evils.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—It is no good.

Mr. FENTON. — And it is a serious reflection, not only on the Minister, but on our returned men.

Sir JOSEPH COOK. — Will the honorable member show in what respect it is no good?

Mr. FENTON. — It will be of no avail because most of our men have come back with very little money.

Sir GRANVILLE RYRIE. — They will have their gratuity.

Mr. FENTON. — That will not help them over a thousand hills. It will certainly be of assistance to some who are already in business, but it is lack of capital that, in most cases, brings about failure. That was the cause of the failure of the co-operative concern with which I was associated. If we had possessed ample capital, we could have brushed aside the objections of the country bank manager, who knew little about our industry; but, not having it, we were closed up like a book. Many of the banks and financial institutions will treat co-operative concerns in the same way. Co-operation, however, has come to stay, and the more it is extended the better for the community. Those who vote against the clause will vote against one of the best propositions ever put before Parliament, because it is designed to help returned soldiers to do for themselves what they are most anxious to do. I hope the Committee will stand by it.

Mr. ROBERT COOK (Indi) [5.16]. — It seems to me that some honorable members are disposed to approach the consideration of this question in a fighting spirit rather than to deal with it according to common-sense principles. I am convinced that we are all anxious to do what we honestly believe to be in the best interests of our returned men, and in the few remarks that I propose to make I shall follow along practical lines. As a rural producer engaged in the butter industry, I have had practical experience of the working of co-operative enterprises. Many honorable members will be aware of the fact that when the butter industry in Victoria was in a very bad way the State Government came to our assistance with a bonus, and that its help was most opportune. It put us in good heart, enabled us to wipe off our debts, and was also the means of putting the State on a solid footing. We have some 25,000 returned men either already in

training or offering for vocational training. I have seen the work that is carried out in the vocational institute on St. Kilda-road, and I said a few days ago, a distinct advantage to the Minister for Repatriation learning various trades will soon be professed in establishing industries as those of furniture-making, engineering, motor-body making, or building, in each of which a dozen men could combine when a grant of £200 a man would enable them to start business on a sound footing, enable them to become their own masters, and the movement as it grows break down, to a very large extent industrial unrest that now prevails. My desire is that as many men as possible shall be made self-reliant. I want men to be content to remain earners. I desire, on the other hand, to encourage the men to become their own masters. The clause is not designed to induce men to lean on the Government for help. It makes for combination and individual effort. In this scheme we shall certainly meet with failures, but I am convinced that if adopted, it will lead to the establishment of our returned men in a number of industries, and will open up great possibilities to the workers of Australia. We are at the head of the industrial unrest which prevails throughout the civilized world. I believe that, by encouraging men to combine and work along co-operative lines, we shall give very considerable assistance to the soldier, and do good to the community as a whole.

Much is said nowadays of the evils of Co-operation, I believe, would lessen the evil. What, for instance, would be the result if a number of turned soldiers combined and entered the woollen trade? Wool will be dearer in the future, and probably what they have been, but it still offers unlimited scope for the development of enterprise and enterprise of co-operative associations. Last year we exported wool worth like £34,000,000 according to experts, there being a large amount of manure, on which we place the old world, and which cannot be equalled by products. All these are of importance.

ay be described as a prospecting
and no one can foretell the bene-
will result from it. By en-
co-operation we shall, to some
move the feeling of hatred that
between the worker and the

It should be our desire to do
is humanly possible to remove
ng. If, by carrying out this
we can not only accomplish
that direction, but make men
reliant, we shall do a good ser-
the community. Co-operative
properly controlled would, to a
ent, enable the people to avoid
ous sums that are spent on the
agents and middlemen ranged
the producer and the consumer.
opian Government has set us a
xample in the matter of co-
by its action in making ad-
the establishment of freezing
the State Government advanced
; and although the scheme was
garded as a harum-scarum one,
to prove one of the wisest upon
State has ever embarked.
put, this clause is designed to
boys more self-reliant and inde-

Representatives of country
ties, after discussing the pro-
returned soldiers and their
re satisfied that under this
will be possible to start a num-
tries in rural towns, the resi-
which will be able to render
ssistance. We ask that this
given a trial. It must not be
that it will be under the control
nsible Minister and the Gabi-
hole. It has been said that
ave a change of Ministry, but
ministry is in power will have
full responsibility for its
will have to account to the
will not be possible for any
to go very far along the
without being pulled up by
I hope that the Government
upon the retention of the
am satisfied that if they do it
ly give satisfaction to our
s, but will open up fruitful
come in the near future.

MART (Wimmera) [5.25].—
son given by another place
this amendment is "because
idered equitable to extend to

collective bodies of soldiers benefits for
which individual soldiers might not be
eligible." That objection carries very
little weight, because nothing in the
amendment excludes any individual from
its benefits; it merely proposes that when
a body of men desire to start in a co-
operative enterprise, the Government
shall give them the opportunity. The
second reason advanced by the Senate was
"because the effect of the granting of the
benefits contemplated by the amendment
would result in the unsettlement of the
large majority of men whose re-establish-
ment in civil life has been already accom-
plished." In other words, Private John
Smith may throw down his pick in order
to take up something better. It would
not do to unsettle the hewer of wood and
the drawer of water. He has become a
working bullock again, and it would not
do to fill him with the hope of attaining to
something higher. The third reason is
"because grave financial loss to the Go-
vernment, and disappointment to bodies
of men may result from the starting of
enterprises which may not prove success-
ful." The honorable member for Wake-
field (Mr. Richard Foster) said that this
amendment might involve the loss of mil-
lions of pounds.

MR. RICHARD FOSTER.—I was dealing
with wool factories and big concerns when
I said the amendment might involve mil-
lions of pounds.

MR. STEWART.—The honorable
member has not much faith in the re-
turned soldier's ability to manage his own
business.

MR. RICHARD FOSTER.—I have as much
faith as has the honorable member, and I
have shown it.

MR. STEWART.—I have a lot of
faith in the men who, without any pre-
vious knowledge of the science of war-
fare, more than held their own against
the finest troops of Europe. The mem-
bers of the Australian Imperial Force
were drawn from every calling. Most
of those who went from the rural
areas did not own an acre of
land, or a head of stock, but the
Repatriation Act gives them the oppor-
tunity of becoming their own masters on
their return to Australia, provided that
they can prove that they had previous ex-
perience in agricultural pursuits. That
section of the members of the Australian

Imperial Force who had previously been farm labourers are to be given a chance of becoming their own masters. I ask the Minister in charge of the Bill (Mr. Poynton) why he wishes to deny the same right to others. There are men owning farms to-day who never before were their own masters. Some of them may prove failures, but the majority of them will succeed. Why deny the same opportunity to others? I will instance a concrete case: As a member of the Victorian Parliament I was approached by a returned soldier, who, prior to enlisting, drove a horse and dray. He had an opportunity to contract for municipal work in one of the northern towns, and he applied, through me, for an advance sufficient to enable him to purchase some horses and drays. The Repatriation Department, having ascertained that the man had not owned horses and drays before he went to the war, decided that he was not a fit and proper person to own them now, and his application was rejected. Fortunately, some business men in his district, who had a little more faith in the soldier than the Department apparently had, advanced him sufficient money to enable him to purchase a horse and dray, which to-day are his own property. In this amendment we are making a plea for the co-operative principle and its application to returned soldiers. If a number of men club together, the Government may advance them money for the purchase of a plant and building in order to carry out their enterprise, the Government retaining a lien over the plant and building. In other words, we ask the Government to say to a co-operative society of soldiers, "We will set you up with £2,000 worth of plant, over which we will hold a lien. You pay interest on the money advanced, and repay the capital over a period of years. Immediately the capital is repaid the plant will become your own." We do not argue that there are no objections to the proposal; we do not say that there will be no failures.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—The honorable member's suggestion is not contained in the amendment.

Mr. STEWART.—I believe that the honorable member for Echuca is willing to insert those conditions.

Mr. HILL.—The suggestion all along has been that the money should be advanced on the Crédit Foncier principle.

Mr. STEWART.—I do not know if the Minister for the Navy is quite as not to have known that.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—I am looking at this amendment from an able point of view. What other can Ministers have in opposing a claim to have as much sympathy for the co-operative principle as have those who are talking so much.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—Why does the Government show their sympathy?

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—We would like to have honorable members to submit a scheme.

Mr. STEWART.—Honorable members sitting in this corner have their willingness to accept an able safeguard that Ministers propose, but I am not willing to accept the amendment suggested by the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Tudor). That before an advance can be made by the Department the men shall have paid off the capital required, when they have no money to put into the Ministry do not attempt to do it. They seem determined to wipe out if they can. I appeal particularly to Ministerial members to support the amendment, which is put in a non-party spirit. When it was proposed, the Minister in charge (Mr. Poynton) said that it was a socialistic proposal ever broached in the House, but ten minutes later he mildly accepted it.

Mr. TUDOR.—He said, "I am up, and I will climb down."

Mr. STEWART.—I hope the Minister will not regard this in a party spirit. We are not for "the bottom dog"—that is, he threw down his pick and his axe, in order that he might stand at the Front. We say that he given a chance to make good what he did in war. If he fails to do so, we shall at least have the satisfaction of having given him a chance. I ask honorable members on both sides of the House to show by their votes that they have faith in the men of the Australian Imperial Force to stand up for their own country as they did in war.

Mr. FLEMING (Robertson).—I do not suppose there is a single member who would not be in favour of such a scheme stretched as far as possible. Every one will agree to that.

on this side have been doing as has any one else to help the soldiers. We have as much sympathy for the man who threw down his shovel, and went to the war, as for any other soldier. Many of them were amongst the best men sent to the war. Quite a number own ability and hard work themselves from the ranks to high in the Army. Others, however, will continue to fail. Every member is agreed that the Minister for Repatriation (Senator) is an excellent man for the job. He is a man of wide views and broads, and of firmness and courage, understands the repatriation

The Government are taunting us first accepted this amendment now opposing it, but it has admitted to the Minister for Repatriation, who has declared that it can be accepted without a risk of direct damage. Now honorable members are a vote of censure upon the whom everybody applauded, and decided to be the best man for the job. He has told us what should be done. I think we should respect his decision. We should show our trust in him. We admit that he is not the best man for the job; yet it is proposed to turn him down, and act in a way regardless of what ruin may follow. Had the Minister accepted the amendment, there would have been a question as to its wisdom. We do not understand the repatriation problem and, for that reason, I cannot support the amendment.

PARKER MOLONEY (Hume) can only characterize the remarks of the honorable member who has given up his seat as a piece of special foolishness. One might have expected to hear the honorable member some arguments against the proposed amendment, but all he told us was that he was going to "turn down" the proposal of the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Allen), who, in his opinion, is not the best man for the job that could be found in any part of the world.

HILL.—He did not tell us that the alternative was to "turn down" thousands of the Australian Immigrants.

PARKER MOLONEY.—He did not tell us that the alternative was to bring in the name

of the Minister for the purpose of covering up the injustice proposed to be done to a great number of the men. I do not know that it is admitted that the present Minister is the best man in the world for the job. I make no reflection on the Minister for Repatriation, but I know there has been a waste of money in connexion with his Department—money that would have gone a long way to establish men in various industries. I understand that the annual amount paid for subsistence is something like £2,000,000, and that is paid only because men who are willing to work cannot find avenues of employment. This amendment affords an opportunity to save a great deal of this annual expenditure of £2,000,000 by giving the men opportunities to launch out for themselves. I point out to the honorable member for Robertson (Mr. Fleming) that nothing can be done under this amendment without the approval of the Minister for Repatriation, and if that honorable gentleman is all that he is claimed to be, he will be able to say yes or no to any of the ventures proposed.

MR. MCWILLIAMS.—It is those who vote against this amendment who have no faith in the Minister for Repatriation.

MR. PARKER MOLONEY.—Exactly. I have not the exalted opinion of the Minister for Repatriation that some honorable members may have; but I would not hesitate to cast any such reflection on him by suggesting that, although he has the deciding voice, these ventures will be a failure. When the war ceased we heard a great deal about "Labour's new world"; every newspaper had something to say on the subject; but now the war is over, and our liberties, for which our men bled and died, are won, the survivors are asked to go back into their old avenues of employment.

MR. POYNTON.—Who said that?

MR. PARKER MOLONEY.—It was a common experience to hear and see such utterances every day; but, as the honorable member for Wimmera (Mr. Stewart) has said, the men are asked to return to their old grooves. The honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill) is to be commended for his action. We all believe in the new world for labour, and, instead of asking the men to return to the old avenues, believe in providing fresh avenues where they may strike out on their own account. It is quite unnecessary to enumerate the various

openings for employment that may be provided under an amendment of this kind. Saw-milling has been mentioned, and that would be peculiarly appropriate for a great number of our returned soldiers. In addition, there is the woollen industry, and, like the honorable member for Echuca, I have in my electorate one or two places which would make good centres for woollen mills. I know nothing better than the scheme suggested by the amendment for inducing men to go into the country, and thus counteracting the evils of that centralization that is keeping the Commonwealth back to-day.

Mr. LAIRD SMITH.—Does the honorable member know that more money can be lost in saw-milling than in any other occupation?

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY.—Money can be lost in any industry. The honorable member for South Sydney (Mr. Riley), suggests to me that many of us lose money by being in this House, though I do not know that many of us are trying to get away from it. The Minister (Mr. Poynton) asked whether any of us would put our own money into the proposed enterprises. Well, from my knowledge of the men who have gone on certain areas of land in my constituency, I venture to say that, although a number of them may struggle on for two, or it may be six years, in the end they will be out "on the road." The reason for this is that, in most cases, the land is unsuitable, and the prices paid do not give them a chance to reinstate themselves. The amendment, however, affords an opportunity to the men to club together. Lavish promises were made to those who have fought and bled for Australia, and now they are asking whether the Government will take the responsibility of encouraging them if they choose to club together and go into business, contributing their war gratuities to the ventures. Will the Government take the responsibility of saying "No" to such a proposal? At any rate, they would not have said "No" to such a request when these men were leaving Australia for the Front. It must not be forgotten that the men cannot go into these ventures without approval of the Minister for Repatriation.

Mr. BRENNAN.—That is the great blot on the Bill.

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY—my own suspicions, though I charge. This is a proposal that discussed openly without any thing; but we know that there vested interests in the saw-mill and the timber trade generally one of the most powerful Co the country is the Timber Com

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—I back ping Combine!

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY may be, but one of the great Timber Combine, and I can qu stand how those interested in th would oppose a proposal of now before us. I am just a picious that the Government a more attention to the pleading Combines than to the pleading who fought and died for us. make the charge, but the Gover tainly leave themselves open t

Mr. FLEMING.—The charge made by those who are not ref

Mr. PARKER MOLONEY that some members of the Aus perial Force were so late in ge Front that they found the we

Mr. HECTOR LAMOND.—Eve earlier than those who did not

Mr. PARKER MOLON endeavouring to speak with any reflections, and urge that discuss the matter in a non-pa have a fair vote. The amendm us threatens to have a most tory. We were told that no could in decency accept such ment, which was the most So we had ever heard of; yet the did accept it, and it was another place, where the s the Government are in the la

Mr. STEWART.—And, pro vernal sent a few instruc Bill.

Mr. PARKER MOLON as though the Government on the powerful majority in where they can act accordin sweet will, in a way impos is a question whether they their majority in the Sena the House of Representati however, that such is not i

TUDOR.—Do you think that we have a double dissolution over this ent?

PARKER MOLONEY.—Perish ght! A great number of the men are engaged in vocational in technical schools and other and several of these whom I have me that when they do finish their there will be nothing for them cept go back into the old ways boss. I hope there will not be norable members found refusing of the men to the "new world of where they will have a chance i out on their own.

ROWSE (Swan) [5.55].—I have y discussed the advantages and tages of this amendment. On is occasion the House approved principle involved. The Senate rious reasons for disagreeing to dment, and, while the fourth of one to concern us, it should our confidence in the principle, that a Committee be appointed p a fresh clause. The one now is admittedly in a crude form, der that the draftsman should oved of it. If it is desirable e enterprises by the help of t advances, then, rightly, theuld be the subject of special

The objection of the Senate at that point has weight, and reasonable and proper that theuld be amended to meet that

The principle should be set over form, together with a of adequate safeguards. This agreeing to the co-operative did not feel for one moment s opening the way to a sink to throw millions of money. stated that the land section tion has nothing to do with

As one who took a pro in the repatriation of soldiers and in my State, I am quite the necessity for qualifying n the legislation dealing with It was necessary for Boards applicants with respect to generally to accept the of going upon the land the consequential financial t could not be expected, that the Commonwealth should be responsible for

the launching of a principle such as is involved at this moment without re quiring every necessary form of securty. The clause should be amplified, but I shall be greatly surprised if honorable members depart from their agreement with the principle as it was originally placed before them. I have not consulted the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill), but I believe that he will see the wisdom of sending on for the consideration of another place a more adequately detailed clause, which would safeguard both returned soldiers and the country, and which would provide no opportunity for money to be wasted upon "wild cat" schemes. I cannot conceive that either £50,000,000, or £25,000,000 is likely to be spent in the direction in volved by the principle. For example, I would not be prepared to entertain applications for the establishment in co operative businesses with respect to men who have already been properly repatriated.

Mr. GIBSON (Corangamite) [6.0].—There will be very great disappointment in the country, and particularly among returned soldiers, if the principle of co operation as applied to the task of repatriation is rejected. It is in itself no "wild cat" scheme, and neither need there be any "wild cat" project attaching to it. It has already been pointed out that it would require to be placed upon a business basis, and that it would rest with the Commissioners, and with the Government, to see that proper busi ness safeguards were taken in regard to any interest or industry launched. At present every man is required to possess a qualifying certificate before he can take up land, and it will be just as necessary for a man to hold a qualifying certificate when seeking to enter into a co-operative concern. It is not proposed to squander £200 or £300 on every soldier who cares to make an application for the sum. Every business proposition would require to be dealt with on its own merits. From what I have seen of vocational training, I feel sure that men could be sufficiently equipped to enter into the various busi nesses which may be established under the principle at stake after only a brief period of training, say, for six months. Businesses to-day are not run solely by business men. Experts are frequently necessary; and it would be requisite, in regard to co-operative concerns also, that

men of experience—experts, in fact—should be associated with returned soldiers. Every returned man, in whatever business may be established, should understand that he is to be regarded as a working partner, and under an obligation to the Government for a certain proportion of the money laid out, just as sums are being returned to the State Governments to-day with regard to land settlement. I trust the Government will take this opportunity—being one of the best ever provided—of establishing new industries throughout Australia. There is any amount of room and necessity for them. Honorable members need not be afraid of money being lavishly poured out. The merits and qualifications of every applicant should be gone into, and I feel confident that there would be far from a rush of returned soldiers seeking to be repatriated along these lines. The honorable member for Wimmera (Mr. Stewart) referred to saw-milling plants. These are not expensive; they would furnish one avenue for repatriating men at a very much lower cost than by placing them on the land. The Government to-day have no security for the £625 lent to the States for each man settled on the land.

Mr. BELL.—Have they not the houses and stock?

Mr. GIBSON.—Those are the securities of the State Governments, and not of the Federal authority. There are failures in every avenue of business. Some of our returned men have failed, or will fail, in their efforts upon the land. The fact that there are likely to be a few failures among those who may be set up in co-operative enterprises should not be regarded as an argument against the principle. It should be given a fair trial. Take the proposition of establishing men with saw-milling plants of their own. The Government have contracts for the building of war service homes involving millions of feet of timber. There are any number of men who are quite capable of starting themselves successfully with saw-milling plants in various parts of the country. In my own district there are returned soldiers working in mills for other parties, who could be just as well making profits for themselves along the same lines. I see no reason why the Government should not adhere to their acceptance of the principle.

There are any number of s which they could easily institu orable members will be prepared to assist the Government in the necessary legal machinery that the right class of men are in co-operative projects.

Mr. HECTOR LAMOND [6.6].—It is quite evident that proposal has been ill-considered, honorable members are sup from widely different motives. position has not been given to thought which should be brou upon any project contemplatin ing of from £10,000,000 to £2

Mr. RILEY.—Nobody can will do that.

Mr. HECTOR LAMOND.—judging by remarks which I this afternoon. There are 300,000 returned men in Au the proposal in its present fo applicable to every one of tho if it were not I would not be support it—then, undoubtedly be many millions involved. no reason why a returned so be enabled to come under a as this merely because he prop a woollen mill in some decayin town which, itself, could not industry of the same char assistance from public mon been stated, during the cour that there are numbers of de and that if only industries by individuals—no doubt, money than sense—it woul thing for those towns. M of the pleas of honorable be a free one, but that is sev several of the arguments ad honorable member for Gra Jowett) proposes to excl operation of this co-operat every man who does not liv

Mr. JOWETT.—I advance posal.

Mr. HECTOR LAMON been proposed to exclude al such as are so unattr population that the peop them. Figures have to indicate the drift of from the country to the arguments of several sup principle have left the

it what they were advocating was thing for the relief of soldiers, the relief of decadent country. Every man with a fancy fad wanting to make our soldiers burden of it; and, now, here is position to rehabilitate declining towns in Victoria at the expense of soldiers.

JOWETT.—Not at the expense of us, but in order to help them.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Kinson).—Order! I ask the member for Illawarra not to at matter, seeing that it is not the Chair.

HECTOR LAMOND.—The question before the Chair, I take it, is a proposal to amend an indefinite number of in the establishment of co-industries.

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.—It so. The question before the amendment of the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs).

HECTOR LAMOND.—I should be permitted to deal with the honorable member for Hill), in which he said that objects of his amendment was these co-operative industries mining centres.

M. PAGE.—I rise to a point of order, sir, have said that the matter before the Chair is the alternative submitted by the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs). You informed the honorable member for Illawarra (Mr. Hector Lamond), he said that he intended would discuss, the amendment of the honorable member for Echuca.

HECTOR LAMOND.—I did not say I did it.

M. PAGE.—Is the honorable member in defying your ruling?

TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Kinson).—The honorable member be in order in defying the did not understand him to could discuss the amendment of the honorable member for Echuca.

M. PAGE.—All he said was that he discuss it if he were perso-

nal.—HECTOR LAMOND.—I am the honorable member for

Maranoa (Mr. James Page) for explaining the Chairman's ruling. If I must now confine myself to the amendment immediately before the Chair, I take it that I shall have another opportunity to refer to the proposal of the honorable member for Echuca. I was misled by the fact that every speaker who preceded me was allowed to go over the whole ground without interruption.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.—Order! Other speakers were not allowed to go over the whole subject.

MR. HECTOR LAMOND.—It is evident that I must have been dreaming when I thought that the honorable member for Grampians (Mr. Jowett) made his statement since the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) moved his alternative amendment. Whether we should provide £10,000,000 or £20,000,000 to give effect to the proposal of the honorable member for Capricornia does not concern me at the present moment. If I may express my views on the amendment now before the Committee, I should like to say that if we can raise £10,000,000 or £20,000,000—and no honorable member has so far given us the slightest indication as to how that money is to be raised—we could, in my judgment, spend it better in the interests of the returned soldiers, and that should be our first consideration, by extending the privileges of vocational training to all returned men than by trying, under the amendment, to revive decaying towns in country districts. For one returned soldier who desires to embark upon a co-operative enterprise in a remote country district, there are thousands who desire to be permitted to improve their condition by learning a trade. In my correspondence to-day I have had more than one or two complaints from returned men who have been denied vocational training because they were a few weeks or a few months over twenty years of age when they enlisted. Whilst, because of an arbitrary regulation of the Repatriation Department we refuse young men this opportunity to improve upon the position which they occupied before they went to the war, it is suggested that we should spend millions of public money on wild-cat schemes for the establishment of industries. In my opinion, the proposal is an ill-considered one, and the Government would be well advised if they refused to accept either of the amendments.

until further consideration is given to the question of extending the advantages of vocational training and of giving men an opportunity to enter into business on their own account.

Dozens of cases have come under my notice of men having been refused assistance to establish themselves in businesses because they were not engaged in those businesses before they went to the war. I am perfectly certain, if honorable members are really considering the interests of the returned soldiers, that we could spend this money, if they can show us how the Government are to raise it, to much better advantage by allowing the individual soldier to go his own way in establishing a business, or in learning a new trade under the vocational training provisions than by embarking upon the ill-considered and immatured schemes involved in the amendments before the Committee.

Mr. MAXWELL (Fawkner) [6.16].—I rise to offer a suggestion to the Committee. There is an excellent opportunity here for honorable members to give a practical illustration of their faith in the principle of co-operation. I am perfectly certain that honorable members of each of the parties in this House have the interests of returned soldiers at heart, and desire at the same time to conserve the interests of the Commonwealth. I am satisfied also that honorable members are all interested in the establishment, wherever practical and possible, of new industries. I should like to say that, although I do not believe that the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Millen) is infallible, I do believe that he has genuinely the interests of the returned soldiers at heart; he has more experience of the practical work of repatriation than any other man; and I have always found him to be a keen, practical business man. My suggestion is that a representative of each party in this House should meet the Minister for Repatriation, and discuss with him the whole question of co-operation for the benefit of returned soldiers. They might see whether, in co-operation with the Minister, it would not be possible to formulate a scheme that would find acceptance at the hands of every member of this Committee. I do not see why that should not be possible. If that suggestion is not adopted, I must say that I am strongly in favour of the alternative amendment proposed by the honor-

able member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs). I have little faith in the success of co-operative ventures controlled by untried and inexperienced men, and in the interest of the Commonwealth, if a proposal of this kind is to be adopted, some guarantee of the bona fides of the co-operatives assisted should be required, and a sum of £100 might well be asked to put down as a guarantee by every £1 advanced to them by the Government.

Mr. RILEY.—Does the honorable member think that a man cannot be induced to take part in a co-operative enterprise unless he has a few pounds in his pocket?

Mr. MAXWELL.—I know from experience that no man in a hundred is capable of establishing a business successfully. A man may be an excellent workman, but if he is not possessed of the ability to establish and build up a business, he may prove to be a total failure.

Mr. RILEY.—The honorable member cannot have read anything about the co-operative movement.

Mr. MAXWELL.—If experienced men are brought together to establish a business, the probability will be merely the multiplication of failures by 100.

Mr. RILEY.—The honorable member should know that the big business enterprises in other parts of the world were built up by working men.

Mr. MAXWELL.—It seems to me that the amendments put before the Committee, that of the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) included, are practicable. But I, nevertheless, emphasize the suggestion which has already been made. The question is a very important one, because there are great possibilities for good co-operative movement. The question is one which may confer decided benefits upon our returned soldiers. Should we not meet together and discuss the matter in a friendly way?

Dr. EARLE PAGE (Cowper).—As one who is accustomed to sit in the seat of any disease at the earliest moment, I confess that I am often bewildered by the forms of procedure.

Mr. JOWETT.—It is always just before the suspension of the sitting that the

EARLE PAGE.—To my mind the powers to be vested in the Commission have been definitely settled before any portion of the Bill was dealt with; that object in view I interrogated the Minister for the Navy (Sir Cook)—

SEPH COOK.—As I construe the powers the Commission to do, even without this proposition.

EARLE PAGE.—Upon the powers by the Commission will depend that body to the community the soldiers themselves. If the power is not to have the powers Minister says it possesses, it is worth much.

SEPH COOK.—The amendment, if anything at all, is a mere direction of the Minister.

EARLE PAGE.—The Minister is to approve or disapprove of the settlement of industries on a co-basis. The amendment does not say that he must grant the resistance. If the Commission is worth anything, if it is not merely to provide billets for a soldier, it should be endowed with all with which it is now sought

If it is to be a useful body to be absolutely independent of control, I voted as I did because I considered that if a plenary Commission, it should with all these powers, whilst if be a plenary Commission it is worth much. Before I could like to deal with a few of mentioned by the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) in which he instituted the settlement of our returned men in the land and the points in the amendment of the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill). I was astonished to hear him preface with the confession that, to some extent, the attempted settlement of our soldiers upon the land has failed. He then went on to the adoption of any proposal upon similar lines would be failure. But those of soldiers who desire to settle in number only a few thousand those who wish to engage in occupations number hundreds of

thousands. There should be no invidious distinction drawn between these two classes. The returned soldiers of New South Wales are allowed to purchase land up to a value of £3,000, and there is no denying that this fact has considerably enhanced the value of farm properties in that State. At first, an applicant was required to deposit 6 per cent. upon the total value of his purchase before he was permitted to secure the land. But some fifteen or eighteen months ago the Minister for Lands in New South Wales abrogated that provision, so that to-day the whole amount is advanced to the soldier to enable him to purchase his land. In addition, he is entitled to a grant of £625 to enable him to secure a house, stock, and implements. It is well known that in the great majority of cases the land upon which soldiers have been settled in New South Wales has been considerably over-valued. The local Repatriation Committees have regarded the claims of our soldier applicants with more favour than they would have done under normal conditions. As a result men have been settled upon land which is not worth by hundreds of pounds the money that has been paid for it. Of course, that is no argument in favour of making a worse deal.

Mr. FLEMING.—The honorable member does not say that the bulk of the land upon which soldiers have been settled in New South Wales has been over-valued?

Dr. EARLE PAGE.—A large portion of it has. In several instances big estates have been purchased by the Government at exorbitant prices. These estates have been subdivided for the purpose of soldier settlement. Before the men have entered into possession of their blocks, the Minister himself has admitted that the land has been purchased at too high a price, and has reduced the valuation of it to the soldier purchasers. In that way a dead loss of £3 or £4 per acre has been sustained by the State. There is one settlement, of which I have some knowledge, which is to be devoted to the cultivation of prune trees. In that case provision has been made that for seven years a certain amount of sustenance will be paid to the soldier settlers until the prune trees come into bearing. In such circumstances it seems only right that soldiers who wish to enter into our secondary industries should receive at least equal, or

approximately equal, assistance in their co-operative efforts. Let us suppose that a saw-mill is for sale—not a saw-mill which is a "wilderness of machinery," as we have been told. As a matter of fact, despite the statement of the Minister for Repatriation to the contrary, a saw-mill is usually distinguished by the comparative absence from it of machinery. I admit that there is often a wilderness of tramways leading into the bush. Let us assume that a saw-mill is worth £1,200.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 to 8 p.m.

Dr. EARLE PAGE.—I would not advocate the establishment of any secondary industries without adequate security, but I am endeavouring to show that the proposal, as presented by the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs), does not furnish a sufficiently liberal margin for co-operative undertakings by soldiers who may desire to enter this field of business activity. In connexion with the establishment of saw-mills, I have in mind a case which came under my own observation, of three soldiers who were able to muster about £200 or £300 between them, but could not purchase outright, as they were unable to find a deposit equal to half the value of the mill, which was about £1,200. I am satisfied from my own experience of these men that the venture was a thoroughly profitable proposition, and would have given a return of about £5 per day. I believe the margin of security should be such as to enable men to engage in co-operative undertakings of this nature, and carry them through successfully, without being worried by the fact that their working capital is hopelessly inadequate. The original proposal will provide this safeguard for the soldier. The honorable member for Illawarra (Mr. Hector Lamond) has told us that his only wish is to consult the soldiers' interests. But if I understood the Minister for Trade and Customs (Mr. Greene) aright, the purpose of the new Tariff is to decentralize industry. I do not know of any proposition calculated to do this more effectively than the proposal submitted by the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill). There is another phase of the question with which I should like to deal. This scheme will permit of returned soldiers engaging in occupations of a nature different from

those with which they were prior to the war. Under the repatriation scheme the men have the right to apply for assistance if they wish to engage in a business in which they were connected prior to the war. Every country member instances of men whose earlier undertakings were not remunerative, and who only found an avocation during the war. Many men, formerly blacksmiths, engineers, who, since their return, have become very successful saw-mill owners. From a business point of view, they never looked back. These men find their real job until the activities of the war disclosed their capabilities. They have come back to a position which is now only fair that Government should be available to them to undertake those businesses which are more attractive to them for which they may be more suited.

I desire to refer briefly to the statement furnished by another place in connexion with the amendment moved in the House of Representatives. It states—

Because it is not considered expedient to extend the collective bodies of soldiers for which individual soldiers are eligible.

If there is one blot on the otherwise excellent Repatriation Act it is the provision that dual men are not eligible for repatriation unless they did not fill prior to the war any apprenticeship or apprenticeship in tailoring apprenticeship, but the Repatriation Commission demurred at his request to become a cutter, so that he took up in business for himself, the reason being that he was not following any occupation during the war. If the amendment proposed by the honorable member for Echuca is incorporated in the bill, there will be provision enabling dual men to engage in occupations as individuals, they were before the war, and thus a benefit will be conferred upon the returned soldiers and the community. It has been stated that men will be engaged in these co-operative enterprises, and that the soldiers are properly repatriated. It is the desire of the honorable member that it would be remarkable if

orily placed evince a desire to into co-operative undertakings one honorable member has de-s wild-cat schemes. As the divi-co-operative concerns would be comparison with the financial of men satisfactorily repatriated thinkable that they would re-their businesses or positions to these other occupations. As a fact, the men who will engage in enterprises will be those st see a chance of making good. many thousands of men who at-ppear to be misfits. I know a Cross winner in my own elec-man who for the last three years been doing much good because t found his proper niche in civil is therefore the duty of this nt and the Government to devise to enable such men to become citizens and a benefit to the Com-n. The third reason given by e is startling—

grave financial loss to the Govern-disappointment to bodies of men from the starting of enterprises not prove successful.

have been told that the Com-should have a tenure of five that the Government may expect to get capable men ue would be unquestionable, ity extraordinary. But we on the authority of the Min-Repatriation (Senator Millen) ament would not be able to Commissioners to give permis-e establishment of co-operative by returned soldiers for fear non-success would occasion al loss to the Government, ointment to bodies of men." ent is absurd.

LEY.—The Government had the Bill altogether.

RLE PAGE.—Yes; or else the Commissioners would be to their work satisfactorily. are told that another reasoning to the amendment is—

it is desirable to promote enter-ans of Government advances, the ld be the subject of special legis-

then, the acceptance by ment of the amendment by le member for Capricornia

(Mr. Higgs) to give £1 for £1 sub-sidy removes this fourth objection. Can anybody believe that the Government are serious in this matter? The proposal introduced by the honorable member for Echuca was almost unanimously accepted by honorable members, but it appears that, because it came from the Country party, it cannot be adopted in its entirety by the Government, and there is now an attempt to stultify the whole position.

Mr. TUDOR (Yarra) [8.13].—Although the Government are opposing the original proposition, the Minister for the Navy (Sir Joseph Cook) said, by way of interjection this afternoon, that the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Millen) already has power to do what is asked.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—Hear, hear!

Mr. TUDOR.—Then why object to it being put into the Bill?

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—Why hold up the Bill in order to put it in now?

Mr. TUDOR.—We are not holding up the Bill, but we are anxious to have the provision specifically in the measure. The honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) said that, under this proposal, we would have co-operation with other people's money. I object to soldiers who go upon the land being treated differently from soldiers who desire to go into other enterprises. The Federal Government will be responsible for the whole of the money required to repatriate our soldiers, and for land settlement schemes the amount will work out at least £2,000 per settler, whereas the sum required under the proposal submitted by the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill) will not be more than £250 per head. To put it in other words, we advance the man on the land ten times as much as it is suggested will be enough for men to start in these industries. It is only advanced, and the security in one case is just as good as in the other. The honorable member for Capricornia referred to the unemployment trouble and land settlement; but I am prepared to guarantee that as large a number of men will be successful in co-operative concerns as in agricultural pursuits.

Mr. CORSEE.—No, they will not.

Mr. TUDOR.—I believe they will. It must be remembered that as many men enlisted from the towns as from the country. If I had been of age, and had

enlisted for service overseas, what use would I have been on the land?

Mr. STEWART.—That is the whole point.

Mr. TUDOR.—I have visited factories in company with other honorable members, and have seen rolls of honour unveiled which showed that seventy or eighty men of a total number of 250 enlisted were employed in one factory. The honorable member for Corio (Mr. Lister) will support my statement when I say that in distributing medals at Geelong it was found that thirty-two or thirty-three members of a union, with a total membership of 142, enlisted for active service, while a number of others were called up for home service, and many others volunteered but were rejected, and others were over age. These men are debarred from taking up land because they have been working on the wharfs all their life, as also are others who have been engaged in woollen mills, boot factories, tanneries, and similar industries.

Mr. WEST.—Yes, and in lollie shops.

Mr. TUDOR.—Exactly, and much money has been made in confectionery. I suppose Steadman's, in Sydney, or MacRobertson's, in Melbourne, are perhaps the largest manufacturers of confectionery in Australia. Is it not the boast of Mr. MacRobertson that he commenced business by making lollies in a little saucepan in his mother's kitchen?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Atkinson).—Order! The honorable member is departing from the question before the Chair.

Mr. TUDOR.—I am merely using that as an illustration, and showing the possibilities of establishing industries if men are only given the opportunity.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—That is not a parallel case.

Mr. TUDOR.—Why should not the men be given a chance?

Mr. GROOM.—The business of MacRobertson's is not conducted on a co-operative basis.

Mr. TUDOR.—No, but it shows that success has been achieved from a small beginning. We desire to make a start in this direction by inserting a provision in the War Gratuity Bill to enable men to become interested in co-operative concerns. What did the honorable member for

Swan (Mr. Prowse) and the member for Adelaide (Mr. Blundell) propose? That certain persons entitled to the war gratuity paid in cash to enable them to carry on their business on their own account. It was their own money that was used in financing an undertaking, and that is no reason why a similar proposal should not be included in this Bill. At Geelong a movement is on foot to establish co-operative woollen mills, and that there is as good a prospect of men who are to engage in that being successful as many of those who are taking up land. What about the War Service Homes before us? Provision was made that nurses could receive an advance from the Repatriation Department to assist in establishing establishments, and, speaking from memory, I think every member of the House supported the proposal. Evidently it is the intention of the Government that nurses and men who are to take up land are to be more favourably treated than men who have been engaged in business. Why should we not give those who have been overseas to fight for us the opportunity of engaging in business on their own account?

Mr. STEWART.—Not one member of the Government has answered the question.

Mr. TUDOR.—It is a fundamental principle.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—Come under the building scheme.

Mr. TUDOR.—Yes, under the War Service Homes Act, but they are to co-operate. The definition of "dwelling-house" in the 1919 Act is:

"Dwelling-house" includes a building used or to be used by a person, and is included in paragraph (b) of the definition of "Australian Soldier". It includes hospital, sanatorium, or nursing home, and appurtenances, necessary outbuildings, and permanent provision for water supply, drainage, and sewerage, or building, but does not include

Some of the industries mentioned are comparatively easy to establish, but let us suppose there is one business in Australia that owns 50 per cent of the machinery employed, as a result of a reasonable chance of malice, of boot manufacturing merely. Let us approach the manufacturers of such a plant, who will install

Most of the large boot manufacturers in Australia come that way, and of the 12,000,000 boots produced annually in Commonwealth I suppose quite pairs are manufactured inents that have machines.

Shoe Machinery Trust. an were anxious to start saw-milling business, and he the repatriation authorities, question he would be asked "Were you in the business before he had not been he would be and would not have an opportunity in such a business on account.

MES PAGE.—If a man had been e authorities would say, "Here and shovel, continue your pre-paration."

TUDOR.—Yes, they would say, your implements." I am re- the honorable member for y (Mr. West) that the most co-operative concern in the t at Rochdale, in Lancashire, sisted with twenty spinners.

TTEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.— And the honorable member that tee is not discussing the ques- peration, but the amendment the honorable member for (Mr. Higgs).

OR.—Yes, and as to whether shall find £1 for £1 to estab- tive works. The amendment

Commission shall, subject al of the Minister, have power rs by way of loan to the extent contributed by them in cash or the purpose of establishing in- o-operative basis—

TTEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.— e member will see that that e the question of co-opera-

R.—If the industries are to a co-operative basis, it cer- and I was merely referring to one of the most successful concerns in the world was ery small way. Under this ndeavouring to establish a by advancing money to engage in business. It has recognised that it is the Government to assist men

who were away from their trade or calling for three or four years, and, as the Minister (Mr. Poynton) has stated, Australia has done more than any other country in the way of re-establishing men in civil life. Although we may have done much, I am now asking that men who were engaged in industries before going abroad should be given similar opportunities to those who were engaged in rural pursuits. We have been reminded of the industrial unrest in the community by the honorable member for Indi (Mr. Robert Cook), who has said that if provision were made for the establishment of co-operative concerns many of our present industrial disputes could be avoided, as men would be employed in establishments of their own. It has been said by the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Millen) that if the proposed new clause was embodied in the Bill it would be the means of unsettling men who are already engaged in other occupations. I believe that 60 per cent. of the returned soldiers who have been discharged have never approached the repatriation authorities for assistance, but have gone back to the occupations they previously followed in factories, tanneries, or woollen mills, and many other industries in town, as well as in the country.

MR. STEWART.—Because no provision has been made for them.

MR. TUDOR.—Exactly. Whoever was responsible for administering the Act would, if this co-operative scheme were adopted, make sure that the Government had sufficient security, which in many cases would be as good an asset as land. The Government are not prepared to advance, say, £250 each to a number of men who know something of the saw-milling business, and all the amendment of the honorable member for Echuca pro- vides is that they shall be given the opportunity, if the Minister approves. The honorable member for Melbourne (Dr. Maloney) has been fighting for a long time in the interests of returned soldiers in connexion with the Anzac tweed industry, and I trust that the movement may be assisted by the adoption of this provision. I trust that the proposal that the Government should advance £1 for £1, will not be considered. The Government are prepared to advance £2,500, plus £650 for building and machinery, for men who go on the land, but,

apparently, they are not anxious to assist others. The Government consider that in such cases they have the land as security, but, as the honorable member for Echuca and other members of the Country party have stated, there are in many instances grave doubts as to whether the land is worth the price paid. We know that in the Devon Meadows Estate land which was sold at £30 per acre has proved absolutely valueless for farming purposes.

In connexion with the vocational training scheme, I believe that although a number of trainees have completed their course in certain trades, not a single man has been called up. Eight months ago I visited the Working Men's College, where men were engaged in electroplating; but I do not think the plant is there to-day. It would be far better to allow men to engage in work in which they were directly interested than to spend money in training them when the training is of no use to them.

Mr. MACKAY (Lilley) [8.30].—I hope that as a result of this debate the Government will give its approval to the principle of co-operation. I am thoroughly in sympathy with the proposal that the soldiers shall be accorded an opportunity to co-operate. Co-operation, in my opinion, would benefit them, as it would benefit many other sections of the community. We all know the progress that the dairying industry has made in consequence of co-operative effort. But, as the honorable member for Wakefield (Mr. Richard Foster) has shown, the clause to which the Senate objects, which was adopted at the instance of the honorable member for Echuca (Mr. Hill) is crudely drawn and incomplete, because it contains no provision for the guidance of the Minister or of the Commission. In my view, the principle which it would put into effect deserves a Bill to itself, and I hope that the Government will definitely promise to bring in a Bill almost immediately to carry out the object aimed at by the honorable member for Echuca. I regret that the clause, as it stands, is incomplete, and that its adoption would lead to a great deal of confusion. It is often impossible to get two men to agree, even on a very ordinary matter; yet no provision is made for settling any disagreement. The object of the honorable member for Echuca could, however, be properly carried into effect by means of a Bill containing ample provision for the

settling of any difficulties that might arise. Failing the promise of such a measure, I shall support the proposal of the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr.

Mr. McWILLIAMS (Franklin).—I do not know that I should have part in the debate had it not been for the last speech. I can understand the position, but I cannot understand how men can profess to support a Bill and, at the same time, do what they propose to do.

Mr. MACKAY.—I gave reasons for my attitude.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—I do not know that they appeal to many honorable members. Even if the clause under discussion is incomplete, it must not be forgotten that the Bill provides for the making of regulations by which the difficulties can be met. The clause to be removed by the honorable member (Mr. Mackay) may be removed, but one of the best men who went to the war and one of them was a winner of the Victoria Cross—were men capable of doing kind of mill work—in the bush, in the tram, and at the bench. Why should such men be helped to set up themselves? As the honorable member for Cowper (Dr. Earle Page) has pointed out, there is room in all parts of the Commonwealth for small co-operative concerns. Co-operation would be the chief factor in getting rid of many of the difficulties now exist in the relations of labour. We have here an opportunity for enabling returned soldiers to become their own employers. The honorable member for Wakefield (Mr. Richard Foster) and the Minister (Mr. Poynton) have said that wild-cat proposals would be under the clause. But are they not safe guards? We have appointed a Commission unnecessarily—a Commission which must indorse every application for assistance. Its indorsement requires the approval of the Minister, which means the approval of the Cabinet, and the Cabinet is responsible to Parliament. There could be no greater security than is given by the clause.

Mr. FENTON.—I wish that the funds were as well guarded.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—If the proposal for expenditure had been made by the Parliament, had been made with similar safeguards, it would not have been so easily brought about in connexion with some of the

do not know of any other pro-
the expenditure of public money
well safeguarded. The ques-
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Minister for Repatriation
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LEY (Melbourne) [8.40].—
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operative establishments." If a Minister
would go through the Red Cross hand-
weaving factory in Sydney, he would be
a better man for his experience, and
would have greater confidence in his
fellow men. Only this afternoon I have
received samples of the workmanship in
that factory. Sworn evidence says that
the tweeds turned out here are more than
the equal of those which come from
Europe. The price is 15s. per yard
double width, with an extra charge of
1s. 6d. per yard for cloth in which what
are known as solid dyes are used. It is
made wholly from worsted. If those en-
gaged in the hand-weaving industry in
Victoria had had only half the chance of
those who are turning out such fine cloth
in Sydney, they would have made their
establishment a success also. Mr. Frood,
who has contradicted some statements
in the report read by the Assistant Min-
ister for Defence (Sir Granville Ryrie)
the other night, has just returned from
Sydney saying that he was never more
delighted in his life than when he ins-
pected the Sydney factory where there
are fifty men employed, each earning up
to £5 5s. a week. They are not treated
as the Repatriation Department treated
the Melbourne men by deducting their
paltry pension from their earnings.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN
(Mr. Atkinson).—Does the honorable
member intend to connect his remarks
with the amendment?

Dr. MALONEY.—Absolutely. I want
the Government to give returned soldiers
in Melbourne the same chance of making
good that returned soldiers in Sydney
have. The amendment calls upon men
who have risked their lives to put up
£1 for £1. The only experience I have
had of a Government giving £1 for £1
towards co-operative effort was when Mr.
McColl, the then Victorian Minister of
Mines, subsidized on the £1 for £1 basis
men who were prepared to go fossicking
about the gold-fields, and the amount of
gold gained certainly justified the action
taken during that extremely ill period of
unemployment in Victoria, but out of
some hundreds who went out on that
search, the average amount put up was
about £6.

No Government would dare to give a
vote to the man on the land and deny
the franchise to the man living in a city.

Every honorable member who votes for the Government to-night will be put in a cleft stick, because he will be denying to his fellow men who risked their lives for the liberty of Australia and the world, the right to make good. I have had the pleasure of inspecting the co-operative establishment in Rochdale. They have their own tea and coffee plantations, and their own lines of steamers, but all the money came from the poor workers contributing in twopenny and threepenny subscriptions.

Mr. LISTER SMITH.—There was as much sweating in those co-operative concerns as we saw in Glasgow. The employees of the co-operative concerns work long hours and work very hard.

Dr. MALONEY.—The unfortunate laws of Great Britain, which at the time of our visit did not allow a man a vote on the ground that he was a man, permitted men to be sweated under conditions of competition, but there was not an individual working for one of those co-operative concerns who was willing to leave and take work in private firms. I do not think that I can say any more to stress the point, but I would like to know if any Minister would care to resign and fight the Melbourne seat on this question. I am sure that the people outside would say that there must be equality of opportunity to every soldier to make good. If we had the law of recall in operation I would go to the constituency of any honorable member who claims that under the Government proposal equality of opportunity is given, and fight him on the issue. I understand that this question has been thoroughly threshed out, and as one of the oldest members of the House, I desire to warn young members that if, merely because they happen to be followers of the Ministry, they vote against the retention of the clause, they will live to regret it.

Mr. LISTER (Corio) [8.51].—I am one of those unfortunate individuals to whom the honorable member for Melbourne (Dr. Maloney) has just referred as being likely to get their necks into a cleft, because I intend to vote against the retention of the clause to which the Senate objects. I am just as keen a supporter of co-operation as is any other honorable member of this House. I have been interested in co-

operative enterprises, some of which ended very disastrously through management and the fact that in them wanted to be a boss give very briefly my reasons against the clause which was the Bill last week on the motion of the honorable member for Echuca and with which the Senate had My view of it is that it leads If it were carried, any proposals under it to the Commission to go to the Minister for (Senator Millen) as the final with the Minister in his present mind disappointment would applicants.

I have listened with a great interest to the various arguments adduced both in favour and against the clause. It seems that the bulk of the suggestions have centred round the textile industry and the establishment of mills. Many honorable members in this debate have referred to the establishment on a co-operative basis being likely to give employment to returned men, and at least one honorable member has said that the Government would grant to a party of soldiers a sum of £250 each able to embark upon such a venture. I propose to quote—and the reason for rising—a few figures which I think will at once remove the apprehensions of honorable members respecting the woollen mill being established on a large scale. These figures relate to the Commonwealth mill at Benalla. Some may say that that is not up to date—as it undoubtedly offers opportunities for employment—but we should be prepared for such a mill as would probably be required for those employed when we take into consideration the cost of machinery. It has increased considerably since the Commonwealth mill was erected, and seen at once from the figures quoted that any proposed establishment of woollen mills for the repatriation of soldiers is out of the question. From the Defence Department buildings alone comprising the cost of machinery with the number of employees—united—able members to follow

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man are limited to five at £20 each, and
the majority of soldiers are paying for
their shares with their gratuity bonds.
If the men in the Corio district are able
to do that, what is to prevent men in
other parts of the Commonwealth co-
operating similarly?

Mr. STEWART.—We are trying to en-
courage that spirit.

Mr. LISTER.—I support the estab-
lishment of industries everywhere, but
the amendment will lead us nowhere, be-
cause the Minister is the final arbiter,
and we know that he would turn down
any proposal that was put before him of
the nature suggested by the amendment.
The Government are prepared to accept
the amendment moved by the honorable
member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs),
and I intend to vote with them.

Mr. ANSTEY (Bourke) [9.3].—It is
most interesting to discover that all the
Government supporters, whilst in sym-
pathy with the proposition put forward
by the honorable member for Echuca
(Mr. Hill), yet adduce a multiplicity of
reasons for not supporting the thing in
which they believe. That is the out-
standing feature of the debate to-day.
We have before us an amendment moved
by the honorable member for Capricornia
(Mr. Higgs) upon a proposition by the
honorable member for Echuca that the
Government should give financial assis-
tance to a system of co-operation
amongst soldiers. I make no professions
of sympathy with the soldiers in any
shape or form, but, warrior as I am, re-
turned from the Front with all the scars
of war upon me—I could say more than
could those who have kept far away from
the battle line—express my sympathy
with them also. But that matter is not
under discussion. We are dealing with
a proposal that co-operative enterprises
for soldiers shall be assisted by the Go-
vernment. This has been violently op-
posed by the Minister representing the
Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Poynton)
on the ground that it is the most violent
piece of socialistic legislation ever pre-
sented to this House. So that no credit
or discredit attaches to honorable mem-
bers on this side; the whole of it belongs
to the representative of Echuca, who
comes from a farming district to present
to us the foundational principles of
Socialism. For this reformation, we may
be thankful. Finally, a transformation
took place, and the Minister accepted

what he said was dangerous to this country. It was not that he had become converted to the principle that earlier had been abhorrent to him, but because he found that the numbers were against him. Again, we see how numbers count, and how they dictate principles. The amendment having been carried here, it was sent to another place, and, on the recommendation of a representative of the Government, was turned down. Four grounds for its rejection were given: Firstly, that we could not give to ten men what was not being given to one, and therefore we should not give anything to anybody; secondly, that we should not settle any soldiers, because it would unsettle them; thirdly, that we should not support any enterprise, or, indeed, anything at all, because it would probably be unsuccessful. Of course, if it would be unsuccessful, we could not do anything; and therefore the whole scheme of repatriation should go by the board. We should not give a man anything, because if we gave him, say, a horse and cart to carry on his industry, he might be unsuccessful, and the money would be wasted. So why do anything? Fourthly, that, after the principle had been condemned and rejected, if it had any excellence in it at all, the proposal should be embodied in another Bill. Thus the rejected amendment comes back to this Chamber, where the Government moves that it be set aside. Then comes the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) with another amendment, which is a whittling down of the original proposition. The honorable member for Echuca proposed that, instead of soldiers individually receiving £500 each for their repatriation, to buy a horse or cart, or start in a business in which they might fail, or to settle on the land, we should be prepared to treat with any number of them as a collective body, and give to them as such a lump sum of money representing the total of what each man could have claimed as an individual. What does it matter, if we are dealing with half-a-dozen individuals, whether the Government advance £500 to each of them or say to them as a body, "If you care to engage in any industry or occupation together, the money that should be advanced to you individually will be advanced to you as a corporation?" But the Government say, "No" to that proposal. The honorable mem-

ber for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) proposes that if the Government go the whole hog, they give power to at least subsidise operative enterprise to the £1 for £1 of the amount by those engaged in it. the Government do then? that they cannot accept that and the principle it embodies denounce it for the four which another place rejects proposition? Not at all. no argument against the motion which is not equally the amendment moved by the member for Capricornia. If the scheme might involve failure, settle men, and might be funds, and if the principle Minister for Repatriation another place should be embodied in other Bill, on what ground government consent to embody measure the same principle as said was an absurdity and failure? Driven by the fibers, and seeing the whittling away the amendment the honorable member for accept the alternative put forward by the honorable member for Capricornia, and propose to embody the same and the same objections as rejection of the original amendment if the amendment be insisted upon quite true, as has been said by the honorable member for Corio (Mr. Lister). The Minister will have absolute say whether these advances not be made. That is valid, what harm can there be? Honorable member that they know the Minister can rely upon him; and the opinion he does, he any assistance in the amendment. If that be the amendment, but the situation, may be accepted, the reason that the Minister it a dead letter. What to the amendment?

Mr. LISTER.—Why is new clause in the Bill, a pointment and delay to applications?

Mr. ANSTEY.—Who disappointment and delay who has the administrat-

ady been said, if this is in the Bill, and a Minister repudiate the decision of Parliament at least will have done. We have heard much about the non-success under a clause such as proposed, but if we had judged all cases on their merits and either each was likely to be a success, repatriation would not have been advanced at all, for probably would have been judged on the basis of non-success. The money advanced has been advanced, I take it, in sound of justice. Hundreds of unfortunately, been unsuccessful enterprises, but, on the other hands have been successful. It is true that under this new clause there would be unsuccessful, but would be achieved, at least, the section of the men were successful. A number of industries established throughout the country, with the proprietors and shareholders, part of the work and to carry responsibility. That, in it, demonstrate to every man that merely a workman drawing another, but that he could own enterprise, activity, and could, I repeat, be good workmen of men capable of carrying on businesses.

The whole position is largely in if it were likely, as has the Minister for Repatriation made the clause a dead letter, why the Government cannot accept. There is no stronger contention than the Government than its position. I could have the Government saying that accept the proposal, but it is inious on their part, after I did not accept one proposal, or, the same in principle, which the same arguments.

I propose to vote for the new clause agreed to be on of the honorable member (Mr. Hill), but I do this voting against the Government, in view of a very grant whom we are to bring to our shores, I do not embarrass the Govern-

ment in any way; the idea of a double dissolution is disconcerting even to me. But, surely, in spite of the coming of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the risk of the loss of their salaried positions, the Government might, for one night at least, stand on some ground of principle—not permanently, but just for a little while. An honorable member near me suggests that the principle of L.S.D. is the most important one; and I cannot ask the Government to cast such a principle to the winds. I would not do so myself; but, at the same time, I think the Government, in their own interest, ought to take some solid stand. If the Government object to the clause and the amendment on the self-same grounds—that, if either were carried into effect, it would unsettle people, would be likely to prove unsatisfactory, and that this is not the measure in which to embody a principle of this character—any man could understand, though he might not agree with them. For my part, I shall vote for the new clause, but without any great hope that the Government will be overthrown.

MR. MATHEWS (Melbourne Ports) [9.15].—I am sorry that the one “baa lamb,” which promised to be of some use in repatriation, should have been shorn of the short wool it had when it first left this House. Why do the Government object to this proposal, and why are the returned soldiers on the Government side going to vote against it? Have they been “nobbled,” or do they still desire to go about the country howling that every man should be sacked from his position who did not go to the war? Are they still going to say that old men should be put out of positions they have occupied for years in favour of returned men—old men whose sons went to the Front, while others were put in their jobs at home? Or will they, on the other hand, seek to repatriate our men in a civilized way? If the latter, an opportunity is now presented. The other day the honorable member for Parkes (Mr. Marr) moved the adjournment of the House in order to request that some girls should be sacked in Sydney, and returned soldiers put in their places; and on that occasion the Government explained the whole position away. Their proposal was that all skulkers, even if they could not pass the examinations to

entitle them to go to the Front, should be discharged, and returned soldiers put in their places. We now have proposed a comprehensive system of employing soldiers without putting girls and old and invalid men out of work. Do the returned soldiers opposite desire to find work for returned soldiers? Do they believe that it is fair to place a "digger" on the land, and give him a chance to make good, and refuse a man in the city a similar chance? One of the most surprising arguments was used by the honorable member for Grampians (Mr. Jowett), who had the infernal impudence to suggest that no soldier in the city should be able to avail himself of such a clause as this.

Mr. JOWETT.—That is not my suggestion.

Mr. MATHEWS.—The honorable member would compel a man to go to the country whether he liked to do so or not, or forfeit his right to any assistance. The returned men opposite know as well as I do that thousands of men returned from the Front utterly unfitted for their previous occupations, and some of them have been receiving sustenance allowance for eight or nine months. This is wasted money, which makes these men loafers by force. The principal objection by the Government is that if money is advanced in the way proposed the men will waste it; but they are willing to accept the proposal of the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs). The Government say that if the men come along, and give "quid" for "quid," they will be helped; but we know that the men have not the money to accept such an offer.

Mr. STEWART.—If they had not gone to the war they would have had money.

Mr. MATHEWS.—Of course. We know that many of the returned men have shown no disposition to work; but that is not to be wondered at. They were away three or four years from any civilian work; and yet they are asked to settle down in their old places, be good boys, and do as much as they did before. I would like to see some honorable members put back to their old jobs, and watch how they settle down to them again. I know that I am not hankering after mine. The Government have been shown advanced methods and systems for repatriating great bodies of men, but

they have refused to take advantage of those opportunities. Turned soldiers in this Chamber support the principle introduced by the Country party, I warn them that time they ask for a man to get a place so that a returned soldier can fill it I shall tell them they are to punish those who did not fight, and that it is only a scheme of economic conscription. I know that if they succeed in turning soldiers out of the ordinary market into some new avenue of employment it will be leaving those, who did not fight, at a disadvantage. There are what a lot of people are doing in Australia whose sons did not even insist that the latter shall be utilized. The time will come when soldiers will be in the minority and cannot expect a fair deal. They must not make clear now that the Government propose to create positions for returned soldiers at the expense of those who are not classed. Many men before now have been working in uncongenial and for comparatively little want something better now and are away to fight; they fought the capitalists, and the least turned soldier representative should do now is to see that decent opportunities are provided for them. They have a chance to bring about a broad form of repatriation.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—On the other hand, the Government are doing nothing in the direction of

Mr. MATHEWS.—They have done much for some, and nothing for most.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—It costs millions a year, anyhow.

Mr. MATHEWS.—Except a few are getting that money. The Minister knows that thousands of returned men in this country are not fully or congenially employed.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—I can do these things under the circumstances, and they are doing these directions at this moment.

Mr. MATHEWS.—If you can do what we desire to do, why should they not be set down in

beneficent Government may be in office. There may be a caitred Government in contention's affairs about a fort-

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That Mr. HIGGS' amendment
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AYES.

Kerby, E. T. J.
Lamond, Hector
Lister, J. H.
Livingston, J.
Mackay, G. H.
Marr, C. W. C.
Maxwell, G. A.
Poynton, A.
Smith, Laird
Wise, G. H.
Tellers:
Burchell, R. J.
Story, W. H.

NOES.

McWilliams, W. J.
Moloney, Parker
Page, Dr. Earle
Prowse, J. H.
Stewart, P. G.
Tudor, F. G.
West, J. E.
Wienholt, A.
Tellers:
Fenton, J. E.
Gibson, W. G.

solved in the affirmative.
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(Grampians) [9.34].—If
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TY CHAIRMAN (Mr.
not accept the honor-
endment, the Commit-

tee having agreed to the proposed new
clause in the form submitted by the honor-
able member for Capricornia.

Mr. ANSTEV.—Does not the alternative
amendment moved by the honorable mem-
ber for Capricornia (Mr. Higgs) now
become the amendment before the Com-
mittee, and may we not move an amend-
ment upon it?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.—
The question now before the Committee
is whether the proposed new clause in
the amended form in which it was moved
by the honorable member for Capri-
cornia shall be accepted or rejected.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—Cannot a further
amendment be moved upon it?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.—
The amendment submitted by the honor-
able member for Grampians (Mr.
Jowett) is not in order.

Mr. RILEY.—He was not allowed to
state it fully. I do not know whether
he is going to take the rejection of his
amendment lying down like this.

Mr. FENTON (Maribyrnong) [9.36].—
I have an amendment to move. There
appears to be a fairly unanimous opinion
in the Committee that if returned soldiers
desire to enter upon some other line of
occupation than that of a farmer, they
should be given assistance by the
Government. Should I be in order in
moving as an amendment to the motion
before the Chair that instead of a sub-
sidy of £1 for £1 the Government should
contribute £4 for each £1 invested by the
returned soldiers.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN.—
No, the honorable member would not be
in order in moving such an amendment.

Mr. RILEY (South Sydney) [9.37].—
I wish to move as an amendment the sug-
gestion made by the honorable member
for Fawkner (Mr. Maxwell), so that the
views of the three parties in this House
in connexion with this matter may be
met, and the Government be given an
opportunity to reach finality in connexion
with the question.

Mr. WISE.—What is the amendment?

Mr. RILEY.—I refer to the suggestion
made by the honorable member for
Fawkner that a member from the Govern-
ment party, another from the Country
party, and a third from the Opposition

should confer with the Minister for Repatriation (Senator Millen) and report to this House some scheme of co-operation for the assistance of returned soldiers.

Mr. MATHEWS.—The returned soldiers on the other side do not wish to assist them; so what is the use of our worrying about it?

Mr. MARR.—The honorable member is only assisting now that the war is over.

Mr. TUDOR.—That happens to be an absolute misstatement.

Mr. GABB.—The honorable member for Parkes (Mr. Marr) did all right out of the war.

Mr. KERBY.—So did the honorable member for Angas (Mr. Gabb). He gained his seat out of it.

Mr. RILEY.—I must appeal to the Chair for protection against these interjections. I was much impressed by the remarks of the honorable member for Fawkner. It appears to me that he suggested a fair compromise to overcome the difficulty in which we find ourselves. A number of our members are travelling to-night in the train, and will be here to-morrow, and it is clear that the Committee is very nearly equally divided on this question. We are all anxious to do the best we can for the returned soldiers. The amendment I wish to move is not my own, but is, as I have said, the suggestion of the honorable member for Fawkner, that a member of each party in this House should consult with the Minister for Repatriation and frame a clause for insertion in this Bill to assist in the repatriation of returned soldiers under the co-operative system which would meet with the approval of honorable members generally. Will the honorable member for Fawkner, (Mr. Maxwell) stand up to such a proposal, because I have no desire to steal his thunder? If he is prepared to carry out the intention which he has already expressed, I shall not move in that direction. His suggestion, I think, is a fair one, and one which the Government should accept.

Mr. MAXWELL (Fawkner) [9.41].—It was because several amendments were before the Committee that, earlier in the day, I was induced to suggest that they should be left in abeyance, and that meanwhile a representative of each party in this Chamber should consult with the Minister for Repatriation (Senator

Millen), for the purpose of some scheme of co-operation to achieve the end we all have, namely, that of advancing of our returned soldiers. We may differ in regard to which should be employed to such a scheme, honorable unanimous in desiring to objective.

Mr. MATHEWS.—I cannot see how the honorable member in view of the last vote.

Mr. MAXWELL.—I repeat.

Mr. MATHEWS.—The hon-

ble is drawing on his imagination. I believe that honorable members are conserving the interests of the nation and do not desire to engage in a definite scheme. They want something tangible and practical if I shall be in order in so moving for the appointment of a committee such as I have indicated to the Minister for Repatriation with a view to devising some scheme which will meet with the approval of all parties in this Chamber.

Mr. TUDOR (Yarra) [9.41].—I wish to call attention to the fact that the Committee has carried the amendment of the honorable member for Capricornia. It is quite competent for any words that we may insert to be carried over into the word "enterprises." For example, insert the words "enterprises shall be started in districts."

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (Mr. Atkinson).—If any words are inserted, they will require to be inserted after the word "repayable."

Mr. TUDOR.—Of course, the amendment of the honorable member for Capricornia may be carried. The Government are very anxious to do this now. A bridge has been adopted by an honorable member, and they allowed them to escape an awkward dilemma. It is the first bridge of the kind that has been constructed, and it will be a great improvement.

Mr. JAMES PAGE.—It is built on the co-operative principle.

Mr. TUDOR.—Whether the Government were in office or not, remember that the honorable member for Darling Downs (Mr. G.

es, who then represented the
of Indi, were the bridge-
read Senator Millen's
e other branch of the Legis-
ng the course of which he
y the same suggestion. It
the last number of *Hansard*
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day. But it is clear that
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T (Grampians) [9.47].—

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f the honorable member
Hill) and of this amend-
every returned soldier to
co-operative enterprises.
that if these industries
country towns and dis-

tricts they will assist our soldiers very
much more than would otherwise be the
case, I desire to see the Bill altered in
that direction.

Mr. CORSER.—Is there anything in the
Bill that prevents it?

Mr. JOWETT.—We want to make
sure of it. Those of us who have reached
the span of life which my honorable
friend the honorable member for Wide
Bay (Mr. Corser) and I have come to,
have during the past thirty or forty years
witnessed a deplorable transference of
industries from country towns to the
great metropolitan seaports of Australia,
and it is to insure, if possible, a cessation
of this drift that I am submitting my
amendment. As many honorable mem-
bers were not present this afternoon, I
desire to make clear the position as re-
gards this drift of population to the cities
from country areas. The drift is con-
tinual in every State.

Mr. RICHARD FOSTER.—Everybody
knows that.

Mr. JOWETT.—But everybody does
not heed it. The honorable member for
Wakefield knows of this drift, but is he
so acting as to check it? I wish to im-
press upon honorable members the fact
that in two States of the Commonwealth
—Victoria and South Australia—the
population of the capital cities is greater
than that in the whole of the remainder
of these States. In Victoria the popu-
lation of Melbourne is 723,000 and in
the rest of the State only 707,000; and
in South Australia, the population of
Adelaide in 1918 was 235,000, as com-
pared with 210,000 in the rest of the
State. This deplorable drift of popula-
tion has reached such aggravated pro-
portions that it is now almost impossible
to find houses in the cities. If we pro-
vide employment for people in the
country districts, we can, at all events,
insure sufficient houses for their accom-
modation.

Mr. GABB.—Not in South Australia.

Mr. JOWETT.—At all events, the
amendment, if adopted, will have the
effect of preventing houses from being
pulled down in country towns and trans-
ported to the metropolitan areas. The
problem of overcrowding in our prin-
cipal cities has now reached a most
acute stage. We have been told over and
over again, and every honorable member

knows it is true, that if the father or mother of a family desires to find house accommodation in the capital cities of the Commonwealth, one of the first questions asked of them is whether they have any children or not. In a large number of cases, if they have children, they are unable to get a house. No honorable member can point to one country town in Australia where a similar question is asked. Every one knows that everything possible should be done to arrest this drift of population. The problem should be tackled, not only on general principles, but in detail, and so far as I am concerned any Bill containing a provision that will have the effect of dragging population away from the country to the cities will meet with my strongest opposition.

Mr. ANSTEY (Bourke). [9.57].—An old friend of mine once reminded me that on one occasion Wellington agreed that there was wisdom in retreat. I think the honorable member for Grampians (Mr. Jowett) had better retreat, for the simple reason that on this occasion he is going to be defeated. Great as is my objection to the Government, and anxiety to displace them, I am certainly not going to follow the honorable member for Grampians on this occasion, because he seeks to put a limitation upon the operation of the amendment so that, even if it were carried, it would be valueless.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—It is no good now, anyhow.

Mr. ANSTEY.—No; and nothing matters except that we shall have a number of conversations across the chamber.

Mr. CORSER.—And waste a good deal of time.

Mr. ANSTEY.—Of course! That is what we are here for. Our business is to talk. The work is not done here, but elsewhere. If the original proposal had any good in it at all, it would have been wrong to limit its operation to any part of the country, or any part of Australia. In order to buttress his position, the honorable member for Grampians makes an allegation that the policy of Governments in the past has had the effect of dragging population away from country districts, and he contends that the position will be restored by the encouragement of these co-operative enterprises in country districts only. But, so far as Victoria is concerned, his argument is of

no value. The trend of Victoria towards the cities part, to the decay of the industry.

Mr. STEWART.—Another work forty hours in the work eighty hours in the districts.

Mr. ANSTEY.—That is tage of the cities.

Mr. JOWETT.—If the ho ber will pardon me, I wi that his statement does n drift of population in So It is not due in that Stat of the mining industry.

Mr. ANSTEY.—I shall the honorable member f But I said that the decays industry was one reason f population to the metr The decay of mining in th desolate large areas of lan fit for agricultural opera

Mr. PROWSE.—Ballarat cline of mining, is bigger

Mr. ANSTEY.—And the argument used by member for Grampians. prove what I said. Country party is, it all divided on great questi case, apart from Ba population, we have deal with such places, a country is dead, and the drawing away thousands merely a question of th developed on a larger chinery being employed purposes. In the Win er districts, for insta smaller population to-d thirty or forty years ago

Mr. PROWSE.—Is that growing area has be 4,000,000 acres in four

Mr. ANSTEY.—WI not increased because the land has been tran toral properties.

Mr. PROWSE.—Why?

Mr. ANSTEY.—Me who had been engaged suits have found sheep fitable than the settlen

Mr. BLUNDELL.—Yes

Mr. ANSTEY.—Yes factors that have to be

to occupy time by referring to, but to confine my remarks where, in the Western District the land have given up engage in sheep raising. The district is also an illustration,istics of the municipalities has been a gradual decline in on, and that where ten or existed, only one now re- through a process of absorption, properties have been acquired, areas have been worked with machinery to enable wheat undertaken more success- district represented by the general (Mr. Wise) the small forty years ago were being storical propositions, but they ng back into small holdings user Settlement Act. Why irers congregate in cities packed together when they to country districts where, eces, they find the workmen receiving lower wages, and hours? Is it not all a tater supply and motive sportation of coal, and the er products? These are ll manufacturers consider ith country districts. One it another until he has a ler control, when he em- to do the work, and the e employed on farms the city and make by the man working the

The population drifts to another, and it is the of the conditions under The honorable member Mr. Jowett) has moved and I agree with the hon- r Franklin (Mr. McWil- e is very little in it. mendment as originally nended by the honorable ipians really mean? If the honorable member ister) is true, the Min- power, if he so desires, The amendment of the for Grampians places in the Minister's hands. ay be said that an in- ished in Toorak or St.

Kilda is likely to be profitable, although it may be unreasonable to advance, say, £10,000 of public money in a country district. It is giving the Minister power to say whether a particular industry should or should not be established in a country district. If there were a dozen men willing to subscribe pound for pound, and a business could be successfully carried on in Melbourne, and not in the country, the Minister would be prevented from giving approval. I certainly cannot support the amendment of the honorable member for Grampians, and I think he will be well advised to withdraw it, and allow the original proposition to stand.

Dr. EARLE PAGE (Cowper) [10.5].—I have listened with interest to the dissertation of the honorable member for Bourke (Mr. Anstey) regarding the congregation in big centres, and the only thing that is wrong with the statement of the honorable member is that it is not quite true. He has given reasons why manufactures and population con- gregate in the cities, but what are the facts? Why do our principal cities increase in size? I know that the circum- stances credited to Melbourne by the hon- orable member do not apply to Sydney. Why has Sydney increased in size? During the whole period of responsible go- vernment in New South Wales up till 1913, five-sixths of the money borrowed in that State, with the exclusion of that spent on railway work, was spent in and around Sydney for local purposes, which should have been undertaken a Greater Sydney. Manufacturers congregate there because it is not made profitable to haul coal to the country where the raw material is, and because differential railway rates are imposed on a railway system designed to kill secondary industries in the country. I do not know what has happened in Victoria, but that is the experience of New South Wales, and great cities have grown up in consequence of the disproportionate amount of public money that has been spent. We have been told that in Eng- land, France, Germany, and the United States of America, in the interests of the nations as a whole, manufactoryes are being decentralized, and this is being done largely because electric power is now able to be cheaply transmitted to out- side centres. As the Minister for Trade

and Customs (Mr. Greene) said when introducing the Tariff, there is no reason why manufacturers here should congregate in the large cities, where workmen have to grow up with dirt and coaldust in their lungs, and, in consequence, rear children who are physically unfit. There is no reason, under modern conditions, why industries should not be established where the raw products exist so that men could live in decent homes and in comfortable surroundings. If men are allowed to work in country districts with attractive surroundings, we shall be able to rear men possessing the best characteristics of our Australian soldiers, and, in the next war, we shall not have men such as those who came from crowded centres like Shoreditch—men whose chest you could span with two fingers, though their spirit was indomitable. Our desire is to benefit not merely our returned soldiers by assisting them to conduct secondary industries with co-operative effort, but to benefit also the neighbourhoods in which those industries will be established by bringing to them the comforts which now attract our population to the cities. At the present time there is hardly a country town in New South Wales that possesses modern conveniences. Towns like Inverell, Lismore, and Grafton, which are surrounded by prosperous districts having a production almost equalling that of Victoria, have hardly increased in size in twenty-five years, because no secondary industries are established there. I hope that the Committee will take advantage of this opportunity to make a practical step towards decentralization. We have decentralization leagues everywhere. A Victorian league was reported as meeting in Melbourne only on Saturday last, and there is now an opportunity to give effect to decentralization. The establishment of secondary industries in country towns will be practical decentralization. It will improve the lot of every farmer within 10 miles of them, by increasing his local market, by making cheap power available, and by enabling him to live under better conditions. There is bound to be an aggregation of holdings resulting in big estates where produce cannot find a local sale, or easy access to distant markets, but where, as on the Tweed, facili-

ties for transport are inc local market is given, land v into small holdings, because they can make a living on s I trust that honorable mem be swayed by local prejud chial feeling, but will take tunity of giving a nation to the industrial life of t wealth.

Mr. HECTOR LAMOND

[10.13].—I am now able comments on the proposal able member for Gra Jowett) which I could not in the discussion, and I am speech has been deferred position now is clearer sought to address the Con The soldier, it appears, i go into those places where member for Cowper (Dr and the honorable mem pians wish to put him fore he is to be compelle He is to be denied the ass little while ago we were the salvation of unemploy he is prepared to pursue the decaying country tow We have been told that hours, the low wages, the of country life, coup freights and other disa drive the people into our the honorable member would force the sold those hard conditions assistance of the Gov object of the proposal is decaying towns of Vi soldier is to undertake t ject to that. Our rep should study first the soldier. If he wants towns, by all means let do so, but if he does not right to assistance in a as he would have to ass try occupation. Thos the need for populating tricts do not live in t live in the city. The f they have "done their to retire, come to the the causes of the dea industry is that so m become city-dwelling la

MR MOLONEY.—Would you give a little bit of comfort at this day?

TOR LAMOND.—No; but those who, accepting the coming of the city, attribute the ills of the fact that other persons share which they themselves are honorable member for Anstey) has accurately describes which draw men from to the city. They are not thereby any such proposal as are us. The future of the cities is to be secured by initiation, abolishing slums, making the cities habitable, so physique of their people as that of the young men to the war. If co-operated, the soldier must be where he will follow the he chooses; he cannot practise it only in the country.

negatived.

No. 30 disagreed to by the listed upon, but that, as an amendment, the following clause Bill:

The Commission shall, subject to the approval of the Minister, have at soldiers by way of loan of £1 for £1 contributed by war bonds for the purpose industries on a co-operative basis to include the manufac-tures, woollen goods, and cloth-wool scouring, fellmongering industries), sawmilling, and es.

regulations may prescribe upon which any loan in accordance of this section shall

ported; report adopted.

CHASE BILL.

pending appropriation

F MEETING.

JOSEPH COOK), by

at its rising, adjourn now.

ADJOURNMENT.

ORDER OF BUSINESS—PETROL SUPPLIES FOR WEST QUEENSLAND—ARBITRATION COURT CONGESTION—JUDICIARY BILL: MORATORIUM.

Motion (by Sir JOSEPH COOK) proposed—

That the House do now adjourn.

MR TUDOR (Yarra) [10.21].—I would like to know what business will be taken to-morrow if the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) is unable to move the second reading of the Oil Agreement Bill?

MR JAMES PAGE (Maranoa) [10.22].—On Friday last I brought under the notice of the Ministry the necessity for providing contractors and men on the land in Western Queensland with a supply of petrol for their pumping machinery. Has anything been done in regard to the matter?

SIR JOSEPH COOK.—I do not remember the honorable member mentioning this matter, but I promise to give it every consideration.

MR HECTOR LAMOND (Illawarra) [10.23].—I desire to direct the attention of the Government to the congestion in the Arbitration Court. A statement has been presented to honorable members detailing forty-two cases still to be heard by the Court, although some of them were initiated as far back as 1918. This matter is entirely apart from the phase of the question mentioned this afternoon by the Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) relative to the amendment of the Act, which will have to be seriously considered by the House. In my opinion the congestion ought to be relieved by the appointment of additional Justices, or perhaps, if some of the other Justices could take a few of the cases, it might enable the unions to get their cases heard. It is no wonder there is industrial unrest, seeing that those who wish to comply with the industrial law are prevented from getting a decision.

MR JAMES PAGE.—It encourages direct action.

MR HECTOR LAMOND.—Of course. Every man who obeys the law has to go a year or two with less wages than the man who disobeys it. In the circumstances, we can hardly blame those who

choose to take the law into their own hands rather than have these delays forced upon them.

Mr. McWILLIAMS (Franklin) [10.24].—I would like to know whether the Government intend to proceed with the Judiciary Bill before the adjournment, because it is my intention to move for the insertion of the clause extending the moratorium for twelve months. This is rather a pressing matter throughout Australia, and if it is not the intention of the Government to bring forward the Judiciary Bill I shall have to adopt some other means of achieving the same object.

Sir JOSEPH COOK (Parramatta—Minister for the Navy) [10.25].—I understand that a contingent notice of motion has been given covering the Judiciary Bill, but I cannot understand what affinity there is between that measure and the moratorium.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—We can get it in.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—I think the question of relevancy will arise, and if I were in the honorable member's place I would adopt some other course than that which he now proposes.

I agree that something will need to be done soon to relieve the industrial arbitration congestion, or we had better give up the ghost. The fundamental basic

reason for these delays is that it is not an arbitration Court, Court. Instead of the Courts decisions by and large, and always is a fair thing as between matters are argued as if at stake. Something will need to simplify the procedure cases to be dealt with much more quickly. The Government are not likely to be able to do much to relieve the congestion, and I hope some time soon be done to try to understand the main trouble. We have not enough Justices to work, and if the Court is to be in session dare say it will be necessary to do some more.

Mr. McWILLIAMS.—Let me give you an example of Queensland, a layman as President of the Arbitration Court.

Sir JOSEPH COOK.—On the first successful arbitrators we had in Australia was a layman appointed over a Court in Newcastle.

The first business to-morrow will be the moving of the second reading of the Agreement Bill, and then we will have to get one or two rather important Bills through. Unless we can get enough money in the till to meet the expenses of war and old-age pensions.

Question resolved in the

House adjourned at





Anstey, J
Atkinson
Bamford
William
Bayley, J
Bell, Geo
Best, H
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Blakeley,
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Brennan,
Bruce, St
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Anstey, R.
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Chairman of Committees—The Honorable John Moore Chanter.

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Frederick Herbert (Q.)	Jowett, Edmund .. Grampians (V.)
arfield Oxley (Q.)	Kerby, Edwin Thomas Ballarat (V.)
n Darwin (T.)	John
ir Robert Kooyong (V.)	Lamond, Hector .. Illawarra (N.S.W.)
M.G. M.G.	Lavelle, Thomas James .. Calare (N.S.W.)
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n Mont. Robertson (N.S.W.)	Nicholls, Samuel Robert .. Macquarie (N.S.W.)
Richard Wakefield (S.A.)	Page, Earle Christmas Cowper (N.S.W.)
James Perth (W.A.)	Grafton
Henry Henty (V.)	Page, Hon. James .. Maranoa (Q.)
.. Angas (S.A.)	Poynton, Hon. Alexander Grey (S.A.)
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ry Dampier (W.A.)	Rodgers, Arthur Stanislaus Wannon (V.)
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.. New England (N.S.W.)	Ryrie, Sir Granville de North Sydney Laune, K.C.M.G., C.B., V.D. (N.S.W.)
Ha Guy Capricornia (Q.)	Smith, Hon. William Denison (T.)
Well Echuca (V.)	Henry Laird ..
es, Hon. Bendigo (V.)	Stewart, Percy Gerald .. Wimmera (V.)
lia P.C.,	Story, William Harrison .. Boothby (S.A.)
onney Bass (T.)	Tudor, Hon. Frank Gwynne Yarra (V.)
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	Watt, Right Hon. William Balaclava (V.)
	Alexander, P.C.
	West, John Edward .. East Sydney (N.S.W.)
	Wienholt, Arnold .. Moreton (Q.)
	Wise, Hon. George Henry Gippsland (V.)

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* Appointed 30th March, 1920.